



7,000 JOBS FOR NEW DY5 ZONE

Report by Peter Madeley

A MULTI-MILLION pound enterprise zone in Brierley Hill that will see 7,000 jobs created has been given the go-ahead by the Government.

The sprawling development in Brierley Hill includes plans for improved transport links and is expected to see £589 million ploughed into the region's economy each year.

It will occupy around 700,000sqm of land at Blackbrook Valley industrial estate and Pensnett and will also offer high-tech office space in the Waterfront complex.

Announcing the scheme at Waterfront West, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Sajid Javid said it forms a key part of the Government's efforts to 'fire up the Midlands Engine'.



Secretary Sajid Javid in Brierley Hill with Pete Lowe, the leader of Dudley Council

"I've seen for myself the real potential this site has and with cutting edge office facilities it will help attract the brightest and best of industry," said the Communities Secretary, who is also MP for Bromsgrove.

The site has been formally named DY5 - Dudley's Business and Innovation Enterprise Zone, and work is expected to

start there in April.

Mr Javid added: "This is going to make a big difference. Local people here have fought really hard to get this enterprise zone. It means it will attract lots more businesses to come to Dudley and to the Black Country and create lots more jobs, especially in high-tech manufacturing."

Advanced

Bosses at Dudley Council say the enterprise zone will become the high tech office hub of the region's industry, connecting advanced manufacturing to industrial sites via new Midland Metro links.

It will also see 18,000sqm of vacant office space reoccupied, along with the creation of new plots for manufacturing and technology firms.

Councillor Pete Lowe, leader of Dudley Council and vice-chair of the West Midlands Combined Authority, said: "Our new enterprise zone will put Brierley Hill, the borough and the wider region on the national and international map as a place to come and do business and thrive."

"The zone will demonstrate our ingenuity and ability to breathe new life into businesses and support our ethos - Made in the Black Country, sold around the world."

INTEREST BUBBLES OVER FOR RARE CAR AT AUCTION



Auctioneer Mark Hannam with the rare Isetta bubble car that was found in Stourbridge garage, untouched since the 1970s

AN UNUSUAL bubble car found buried under dirt and leaves in the Black Country could now fetch up to £7,000 at auction.

But anyone taller than 6ft would struggle to fit inside the Isetta, which experts believe has lay hidden and untouched for decades inside a garage at a Stourbridge home.

The rare car was made by BMW between 1955 and 1962 and features three wheels and a small 300cc engine.

It goes under the hammer at Fieldings Auctioneers in Stourbridge on Saturday.

It has been described as a 'barn find', which

is the term used by experts when a classic car or motorcycle is discovered in a derelict condition.

Mark Hannam, auctioneer at Fieldings, who discovered the car, said the Isetta would be one of the stars of the show at the auction.

He said: "I found the car at the back of the garage, covered in leaves and grime and with the paint peeling off. The family have asked us to auction the car. We felt the car has been unused since the late 70s."

The bubble car, distinctive for its egg shape, became the world's first produced car

to achieve a fuel consumption of 94mpg. The vehicle comes with a spare engine, gear box and exhaust parts. Auctioneers have given a price estimation of around £5,000 to £7,000.

The Isetta was first made by Iso in Italy between 1953 to 1956. BMW was also given a licence to manufacture its own version, but re-engineered much of the car.

Also going up for auction will be a Fairthorpe 1961 kit car, made from aluminium, which has an estimation of between £3,500 and £4,500. For further information see fieldingsauctioneers.co.uk website.

DEMONSTRATION

Hundreds in protest against Trump edict

HUNDREDS of protesters gathered in Birmingham city centre to voice their anger over US President Donald Trump's controversial travel ban on people from several Muslim-majority countries.

Placard-waving protesters packed into Victoria Square to oppose the President's edict, which has been widely condemned and may also be illegal. They also want his state visit to the UK halted.

An executive order by Mr Trump banned Syrian refugees from the US, and temporarily suspended the entry of nationals from seven countries, including Iraq and Iran.

FOOTBALL

Chelsea next in FA Cup for Wolves

WOLVES have been rewarded for their FA Cup heroics at Anfield on Saturday with a sensational draw against another Premier League side, Chelsea.

Antonio Conte's star-studded team currently lead the top division and will travel to Molineux for the fifth round clash. It comes as Wolves smashed their transfer record to pay Benfica £13 million to turn a loan deal for Helder Costa into a permanent move. The 23-year-old has been in sparkling form, including in the 2-1 win over Liverpool.

FLY-TIPPERS

Spy cameras to catch litter louts

DUDLEY Council plans to install covert cameras in a bid to catch fly-tippers have received the backing of Dudley MPs Ian Austin and Mike Wood.

The local authority has announced it is considering using undercover spy cameras to catch the litter louts, who are costing council tax payers thousands.

The council has forked out £125,000 over the past three years to tackle the problem of fly-tipping across the borough, including 570 incidents in just six months.

Dudley North MP Mr Austin and Dudley South's Mr Wood said they would welcome the initiative.

INSIDE

GEAR UP FOR RACE RETRO



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Tributes to long-serving rector, 101



Enville's Rev Andrew Collins

TRIBUTES have been paid to a village priest who has died aged 101.

Andrew Collins was ordained in Lichfield in 1961 and, after being curate at All Saints in Sedgley, served as rector at St Mary the Virgin Church in Enville before his retirement in 1990. But he continued taking services well into his 90s.

His funeral was held at St Mary the Virgin in January following his death on December 19.

Reverend Martin Soar, associate minister at St Mary the Virgin, said: "Andrew was remarkably agile in body,

mind and spirit. It was only in the last three or four years that he no longer stood in for me at 8am communion services if I was away. We had some memorable times together including sharing communion with him on his 101st birthday."

Former South Staffordshire MP Lord Patrick Cormack added: "It is impossible to adequately sum up Andrew's long life of dedication and service in a few words but I do not think any Rector of St Mary's in the last 800 years can have been more loved and respected."

"He was known in almost every home

in the parish for he believed it was impossible to be a parish priest without knowing his parishioners.

"Andrew lived in Enville for 40 years and served the village long after his official retirement. He will be sorely missed and fondly remembered."

The Right Reverend Dr Michael Ippgrave, Bishop of Lichfield, said: "For Andrew serving his church and his community was much more than just a job."

"The fact that he carried on until only a few years before his death at 101 is remarkable."

Developer chosen to transform old school

WORK could soon begin on the eyesore site of a former school in Stourbridge, as bosses announce they have selected a 'preferred developer' to transform it.

The Longlands School has been attacked by vandals since it was closed in 2011 when Stourbridge College art students moved to a new campus in Brierley Hill.

Now site owners Birmingham Metropolitan College (BMet) and Dudley Council say they have selected a developer for the land.

It follows a series of meetings with potential buyers before Christmas. Discussions also took place with councillors and Stourbridge MP Margaret James.

Head of Stourbridge College, Gill Coldicott said: "Following the recent marketing of our Longlands property, BMet and Dudley Council received a number of competitive bids from purchaser developers, which were short-listed and assessed."

"A preferred developer for the site has now been agreed, with contract terms currently being finalised."

"The preferred developer will be undertaking on-site survey works in the near future."

Security

"In the meantime, security patrols continue to discourage individuals from entering the site."

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley Council's cabinet member for regeneration and enterprise, said: "We have been working really hard in partnership with BMet for some time to bring this site back to a suitable use and we are delighted that it is paying off."

"The council has already formally agreed to dispose of its part of the site, which will help speed up the process to an amicable conclusion and not only improve the quality of life for people living near there but also bring an exciting new development forward."



The rundown former Longlands school in Brook Street, Stourbridge, could be revived after a developer was chosen

Pleas for extra security were made by nearby residents after an arson attack on the building, off Bowling Green Road, Wollaston, in September.

The fire spread to multiple areas as more than 20 firefighters tackled the blaze.

A video showing the interior of the building as it looks after having been left abandoned for five years was posted online in December.

Inside the former school and college building was evidence of the degradation by vandals with graffiti

strewn across the walls, windows broken and tatters of forgotten art work.

The video, posted on YouTube by Kinver resident, Ian Macey, has gained attention from former pupils and residents who are all sorry to see the site left in the way it has been.

Urged

Dudley Council and Birmingham Met College have been urged to get on with the development of the site in recent months, with it being labelled an eyesore by local councillors.

The Longlands site was a school

between 1912 and 1990 when Stourbridge College took over the site as its art campus.

The site was last in use back in 2011, until Stourbridge College relocated its art department to a new campus at Venture Way in Brierley Hill.

Since then several schemes to resurrect the former school have fallen through.

Security was stepped up at the site after the fire when residents' concerns were backed by calls for action from councillors and the MP.

Campaign to help the homeless is growing

A HOMELESSNESS charity, set up by a Stourbridge widow in memory of her husband, has received a flood of support.

Leslie's Care Packages for the Homeless was launched by Wollaston resident Vi Wood in honour of her husband Leslie, who died, aged 59, from cancer last year.

As a German citizen Vi found herself at risk of losing her home following her husband's death, and became acutely aware of how easily people can fall into homelessness.

Although she and her family have managed to keep a roof over their heads, her experience prompted Vi to begin collecting donations from the public and taking them both to homelessness charities and directly to those sleeping on the streets.

Website

With the help of her family, Vi has now launched a website for the cause, www.lesliescarepackages.org and drop off points have been set up.

These can be found at the Coffee Cups community cafe on Thornhill Road, Halesowen; at the Cornbow Shopping Centre's management office next to Argos in Queensway Mall; and at Fair & Square gift shop in Market Street, Stourbridge.

She is now launching an Easter appeal, asking for rucksacks with toiletries for the homeless.

Email Vi at lesliescarepackages@yahoo.com for details.

Jail term facing child sex abuser

A MAN from Cradley Heath who sexually abused a young girl and made more than 100 indecent images of children has been told he faces jail.

Paul Mann, aged 35, admitted two charges of sexually assaulting a child under the age of 13 and eight charges relating to indecent images.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that the offences took place between 2010 and 2015.

Mann, of Woodhouse Way, is due to be sentenced on February 27.

He was told that he could expect to serve time behind bars despite admitting the crimes.

Judge James Burbidge told Mann: "The fact I am adjourning this case for sentence should not put in your mind that you will avoid custody."

Work on gas main means diversions

A ROAD in Pensnett will be closed for more than two weeks due to gas repairs.

Queen Street, at the junction of Bell Street, has closed and will remain shut until February 17. The closure takes place while the National Grid carry out gas main reinforcements.

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Care home to be knocked down as new facility opens

THE demolition of a Kingswinford care home has been given the go-ahead by council bosses.

An application has been approved by Dudley planners to tear down New Bradley Hall, off Compton Drive, and build a replacement next door, to where residents will be moved.

More than 5,000 people signed a petition opposing closure plans for the home after Dudley Council said it could no longer afford to run it.

The home was transferred to not-for-profit organisation Black Country Housing Group in 2014, but they then put forward their own demolition plans saying that the building was "deteriorating".

The proposal for a new 66-bed facility was granted unanimous approval by council planners.

Amanda Tomlinson, BCHG chief executive, said: "We are delighted to have been granted planning permission for our new home at New Bradley Hall, which will be fit for the future and enable us to carry on providing high-quality care to the current and future residents."

"The current building is deteriorating and a new well-designed, contemporary facility is going to improve the wellbeing of existing and new residents."

"It is important that we are able to continue our investment in the local community and by developing this new home to excellent build standards in Kingswinford we will be able to make a real difference to people's lives."

Youngsters can be VIPs at a charity match

A HOSPICE charity is to give four children a VIP experience at an upcoming charity football match.

A team of West Bromwich Albion legends will be taking on a side of former Stourbridge players at the Glassboys' War Memorial Ground on April 2.

The Jane Webb Memorial Trophy match is being played in aid of The Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

Hospice staff are seeking nominations for four deserving youngsters to lead the teams out. Community engagement officer Amanda Bowen said: "The whole day is shaping up to be something completely incredible, and we'd love to be able to give some really deserving children a day they'll cherish for the rest of their lives."

The second annual charity match is being organised by former Glassboys player Matt Webb, to raise funds for the hospice in memory of his mother, Jane. More than £15,000 was raised last year.

To nominate a child for the VIP experience email amanda@mshfundraising.co.uk with details.

Rugby club has star turn for comedy night

BRUMMIE comedienne Jo Enright, who has appeared on a host of TV shows including Phoenix Nights and The Job Lot, is to headline a fundraising night of comedy at Stourbridge Rugby Club.

Jo, also an actress, from Erdington, will be a familiar face to many having appeared on a host of other shows. Jo has also appeared in Life's Too Short, Trolled and Lab Rats.

She is to appear at Stourton Park, home of Stourbridge Rugby Club, as part of a special night of comedy on Friday, February 10.

Jo will be supported on the night by fast-rising northern comedy circuit star Rob Mulholland, tipped by many as one to watch.

The night will be hosted by Dudley's own Wayne

Beese, who runs and comperes the award-winning Fitz of Laughter Comedy Club at Katie Fitzgerald's in Stourbridge.

Comedian and journalist Beese, aged 36, said it promised to be a night not to be missed.

"Jo will be well known to many for her telly appearances," he said. "But she has also been one of the leading lights on the comedy circuit for years and years."

Glee

"I remember seeing her for the first time at the Glee Club in Birmingham, way before I became a comic, in what must have been 15 years ago now. I thought she was brilliant then and she is nothing

short of hilarious whenever I see her. With Rob on the bill as well it promises to be a night packed with laughs."

It will be the third year the club has hosted an annual comedy night as a fundraiser to boost the club's coffers.

Last year Black Country comic Jonny Cole received a standing ovation after headlining the show. Tickets cost £20, with a two-course meal included in the price.

To book, or for further details, contact John Slim on 07989786913, the club office on (01384) 395000 or email rugby@stourbridgerugby.com

Businessman is guilty over hate campaign

A 'DEVIOUS' Black Country businessman was behind a terrifying hate campaign against his former lover, culminating in a petrol bomb attack on her home in Halesowen

Robert McNaughton had been convicted of conspiring to commit criminal damage.

He has been remanded in custody to be sentenced next month, when it is likely he will be given a prison sentence.

Hairdresser Sharon McCann, a 46-year-old mother-of-two, who now lives in Spain, said she was relieved by the verdict. Her father Brian added: "That man put my daughter through hell and did his best to ruin her life."

Mr Jeremy Hayes, defending, pleaded for 51-year-old father-of-three McNaughton to be given bail until sentence was passed. But Judge Simon Ward rejected the request, saying: "I think he is a devious and complex man."

McNaughton will know his fate on February 17. A jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week heard that McNaughton wanted to 'get back' at Miss McCann, after she ended their seven year relationship in September 2013 amid claims of him being unfaithful.

The defendant bombarded her with threatening text messages and used a photograph of an intimate moment during their romance on a fake Facebook account he set up in her name.

Destroy

McNaughton was jailed for six months in 2013 after refusing to remove a 40ft high mountain of rubbish at the Moor Street, Brierley Hill, site of Refuse Derived Fuel, the recycling business of which he was a director until it folded.

Last week's trial heard he recruited 42-year-old Matthew Barker, who he had met in prison, and Joden Smith, 19, both from Leicestershire, to destroy and deface property belonging to Miss McCann.

Mr Peter Arnold, prosecuting, said: "It was nasty, unpleasant stuff, not just on one occasion but time after time, very often at night."

It ended when a petrol bomb gutted a car and damaged Miss McCann's home in Halesowen on February 1, 2015. The wrecking spree had started two months earlier when the tyres of a car parked outside the property were punctured and the front window of the house was smashed 11 days later.

McNaughton, of Tenter Drive, Halesowen had denied the charge. He will be sentenced alongside Barker and Smith, who admitted their part in the plot.



The rubbish mountain in Brierley Hill that landed McNaughton behind bars on a previous occasion



Robert McNaughton - 'a devious man'



Sharon McCann - her home was firebombed

NEWS IN BRIEF

Leisure petition tops 4,000 mark

MORE than 4,000 people have signed petitions against the potential closure of leisure centres in Dudley borough.

About 2,787 signatures have been collected on paper petitions and 1,410 from an e-petition by the Save Our Leisure Centres group.

Protesters said they would be pushing for a full council debate on the matter after they reached a milestone of 3,000 signatures.

Dudley Council wants to demolish Halesowen and Dudley leisure centres and Crystal Leisure Centre, in Stourbridge, and build two replacements.

Charges and fees at halls set to rise

FEES and charges at Himley Hall and Dudley Town Hall are set to rise.

Council bosses have approved additional fees for advanced bookings of Himley Hall to cover the years 2018/2019. Wedding breakfast prices per head are set to rise £1, from £56 to £57 and afternoon tea is set to rise from £19.95 to £21. The internet transaction fee for town hall bookings is set to rise from five pence to 80p.

A report states: "Proposed fees are to account for inflationary increases and pressures that individual services face."

'Geoscrub' plan at famous fossil site

WREN'S Nest in Dudley is to undergo a 'geoscrub' later this month.

The Black Country Geological Society has asked Friends of Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve to help with the project to clear vegetation on Saturday, February 18, to expose fossils from more than 400 million years ago in the limestone. There are more than 700 types of fossil, including trilobites (nicknamed the Dudley Bug) at Wren's Nest, which is a site of special scientific interest.

It's laughter and cake with added Fizzogs

BLACK Country comedy troupe The Fizzogs, best known for their dancing grannies, have been added to the line-up for a show in aid of Wolverhampton's Light House Media Centre.

Comics Barabra Nice and Jo Enright will also be putting the 'fun' into fundraising at the Sunday afternoon show, from 2pm on February 12. Comedy with Cake is part of efforts to keep the venue and its cinema open. Tickets £8 from the venue at the landmark Chubb Buildings, call (01902) 716055.

Chance to have chat

DUDLEY Canal and Tunnel Trust is encouraging people to join their Chit Chat Club at the Gongoozler restaurant to enjoy a free hot drink and a chat. New for 2017, the club will host guest speakers. The club is on Tuesdays at The Portal, Birmingham New Road, from 10am and is free to attend.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THANKS for your favourite crossword clues. I particularly enjoyed the four-letter name for a sport, beginning with a T. It is, of course, golf.

A GROUP of Morris dancers in Essex are trying to recruit new members and say the pastime may appeal to eccentrics. And there's the problem. You cannot advertise for eccentrics because true eccentrics have no idea they are eccentric.

THANKS for your letters and emails on the subject of Morris dancers blacking-up and causing some offence. The vast majority were in support of an allegedly noble old English tradition (for which I can find very little hard evidence) and against "political correctness gone mad." I dare say the key question is this: since we became aware that blacking-up can cause offence, has the number of blacked-up Morris men decreased or increased?

A REPORT to Parliament reveals that some women are forced to wear high heels, make-up and revealing clothing by company workplace dress codes. This is clearly unfair. However, these issues tend to go off in all sorts of unexpected directions. How long before a woman wins the right to go to work in a nice, slouchy one-sie and a comfortable pair of old Crocs, even if the workplace in question is the chorus line of Chicago.

PRINCE Charles says if weather reports contained climate-change news, people would be "more inclined to think about the longer term." Maybe. But it is a tad irritating, as a humble citizen living a fairly clean, green and low-impact existence, to be lectured from on high by a monarch-in-waiting



who travels by limousine, plane or helicopter. Maybe such reports could include a running total of HRH's flights?

AN expert on broadcasting was singing the praises of digital on the Beeb, claiming that a modern DAB radio gives you access to hundreds of radio stations. Okay, but most of us listen not to hundreds or even dozens of stations but to one, or possibly two. In fact, the greatest techno-leap forward for people like me would be a network which guaranteed crystal-clear Radio 4 in the home, car and on public transport, 24/7. They haven't invented it yet.

SOME years ago we had a long-running thread on Swifts, those one-liners where the final word creates a joke, as in: "Use your own toothbrush!" Tom bristled," or "This is mutiny." Bill exclaimed bountifully." The Museum of Curiosity (Radio 4) this week gave us what must be the ultimate Swiftly: "I have 1,760 yards of paddy fields," he said with a wry smile."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Fly-tipping on increase across borough

FLY-TIPPING is on the increase across Dudley borough, with the council being called out to more than three cases per day on average.

The growing problem has cost council tax payers almost £30,000 in six months.

Officers have revealed they received reports of fly-tipping incidents on 570 occasions from April to September. This compared to 824 from

April 2015 to March 2016, and 819 from April 2014 to March 2015.

Across the two-and-a-half year period, the council spent almost £125,000 on clearing away the illegally dumped rubbish.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "It costs us, and ultimately council tax payers, thousands of pounds each year to clear incidents

of fly tipping across the borough. At a time when we are increasingly under financial pressure, this is incredibly frustrating as these costs could have been avoided if people were responsible and disposed of their waste properly.

"I would ask residents to be our eyes and ears and help us tackle this issue. Incidents can be reported via Dudley Council Plus, the council's

website or our mobile phone app." "I would also remind people that the council offers a special collection service for bulky items and a commercial waste collection service for businesses."

The data on fly-tipping was provided by WasteDataFlow.

From April to September last year, the council spent £28,696 on clearing up fly-tipped rubbish.

Assurances are sought on crossing warden staff

CAMPAIGNERS have called for assurances over the long-term future of school crossing patrols in Dudley after the council's U-turn on axing funding for the next year.

After a 20,000-strong petition and demonstrations against proposals for schools to pay for wardens themselves, the council announced it intends to fund the service for 2017/18. But this has led to questions over whether the school crossing patrols will be secured for years to come.

Kelly Round, a governor at Thorns Primary School in Quarry Bank, said: "We are really pleased with the outcome, but it is only for a year. We need to know what impact there will be in the future."

Cabinet member Councillor Hilary Bills has reiterated that schools will not have to pay for the service under the revised proposals.

"The schools have never had to pay for this service, and they won't have to," she said. "We have found a new way of funding this through the council's public health department, and their initiative to get more parents and children to walk to school."

Previously the authority had described it as 'a non-statutory service' and argued that by no longer funding the wardens it could save £395,000.

Among those celebrating was 50-year-old lollipop lady Sue Dudley, who said: "We work on these roads and we know how dangerous they are. Even when there's a traffic light, people don't always stop on the red light."

MP opens £1.5m training centre

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James has officially opened the £1.5 million North Worcestershire Engineering Centre of Excellence.

The Conservative MP, who is also business minister, was at the Redditch centre run by specialist training provider Midland Group Training Services. "The opening of the North Worcestershire Engineering Centre of Excellence is a great example of building on local strengths," she said. "It was a pleasure to see first-hand just what can be achieved when we place skills at the heart of local industry."

The MP was joined by staff from the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership and Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership. The centre will train up to 200 apprentices over four years.

NHS charity appeal for new equipment

THE Dudley Group NHS Charity has launched a new fundraising appeal for 2017.

The charity is aiming to buy a portable sensory equipment trolley for the children's unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

Bostin' news ay it? Festival gets £200k

By Judith Hawkins

THE Black Country Festival will become bigger and better under agreed plans to invest £200,000 in to the event and spread it out across all four authority areas.

The three-year scheme will see a Lye-based Balti Festival, more Black Country Beer Festivals and themed night and day events.

The plan, which will see three people employed to focus on the event's expansion, will begin this year. It was approved at yesterday's Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership meeting.

The festival, which started in 2014, celebrates the region's best traditions and attractions during a variety of events held on and around Black Country Day on July 14.

All this has been achieved largely through volunteers, but by setting a three-year budget of £200,000, three paid staff could be employed to help expand the festival.

Co-organiser of the festival, Steve Edwards, said: "Over the last three years the festival has been expanding, but to have help through the LEP to make it even bigger will be absolutely fantastic.

"It started in Dudley, but every year we've added events in neighbouring boroughs, and we would like to add even more."

Sponsor

Businesses will be encouraged to sponsor the event while the Black Country Consortium will also work with Dudley Arts Council to help identify sources of funding.

The report presented by Sarah Middleton, chief executive of the Black Country Consortium Ltd, states: "Over the next three years Black Country Festival Committee believe that they can extend the success of the Black Country Festival."

The plan is for the festival to remain focused on Dudley in 2017 then extending the event throughout the Black Country next year.

Rescue dog is an honorary All Black



Kennel boss Michelle Owen from Rowley Regis with the rehomed greyhound named Zinzan after the rugby star

ZINZAN the greyhound has become an honorary All Black after taking the same name as a New Zealand rugby legend.

The three-year-old pooch was named after Zinzan Brooke in tribute to the former player's fundraising work for a Walsall greyhound rehoming centre.

The retired Kiwi number eight, who played 58 tests for the All Blacks, teamed up with John Woodward of Wolverhampton-based demolition firm C&D Consultancy to raise money for Bark Inn Kennels, near Aldridge.

When the black greyhound arrived at the kennels to be rehomed, staff decided to name him after Mr Brooke in honour of his fundraising efforts.

But it was not long before Zinzan found a new home,

and within a week of his arrival at the kennels he had been adopted.

Michelle Owen, manager of Bark Inn Kennels, said: "We decided to name him Zinzan and we had hoped to take a photograph of Zinzan Brooke with Zinzan the dog. But he was rehomed so quickly that there wasn't time. It's great he found a new home so quickly."

So far Mr Woodward and Mr Brooke have raised more than £2,000 for the kennels. They will hold a third fundraiser, An Evening With Zinzan Brooke, at the Copthorne Hotel, Brierley Hill on tonight (Thursday), at 7.15pm. During the night there will also be a charity raffle and silent auction. Tickets for the fundraiser cost £50 plus VAT. Call 01902 244220.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Treat Kitchen on award shortlist

A 'POP-UP' sweet shop at the Merry Hill shopping centre has been short-listed for a national award.

The Treat Kitchen, which also has three shops in the East Midlands as well as running the temporary shop at Merry Hill over Christmas, has been nominated for the 2016 Citi Microentrepreneurship Awards, run by Responsible Finance, in the Growth category.

The shop is an independent, family-run confectionery retailer which was set up by Jess and Martin Barnett in September 2014.

Children's centre is on the move

A CHILDREN'S centre providing support for young families in Cradley Heath is set to move.

The current lease is due to end in March for the Cradley Heath Children's Centre based at Valley Road. It holds parent and child sessions, a baby clinic, family support and welfare rights surgeries.

Sandwell Council says it is committed to continuing to run a children's centre in the area, but at a new site. Councillor Simon Hackett said: "We are just looking for somewhere else to run the children's centre from."

National Trust needs volunteers

THE National Trust is looking for volunteers to help run its properties in Staffordshire.

Roles include a room guide at Kinver Rock Houses, near Stourbridge, an art guide at Wightwick Manor, Wolverhampton, and for a King's Door Steward at Moseley Old Hall, near Wolverhampton.

The trust's Helen Wilshaw said: "We see volunteers from all walks of life." For more information visit nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer

Guest speaker will talk about Zeppelin raids

HISTORIAN and author Ian Bott is to give a talk to Sedgley Local History Society about a First World War air raid on the Black Country.

Mr Bott, from Wednesbury, will be presenting an illustrated talk giving an account of the airship attacks of 101 years ago. He tracks the destructive path of the nine Zeppelins and the unfolding tragedies that resulted. His talk at St Andrew's Church, in Bilston Street, is at 7.30pm on Thursday, February 9. Entry is £1.

Help for greyhounds

GENEROUS shoppers raised more than £2,000 to help a pet charity.

Santa Paws at Pets At Home, in Merry Hill, raised £2,158.46 for the Hall Green Retired Greyhound Trust, in Stourbridge.

For more information about the charity visit www.hallgreenrgt.co.uk

Car cruising injunction sees drivers sentenced

TWO young drivers who admitted breaching a Black Country-wide car cruising injunction in Dudley have been sentenced.

Sam Green, aged 20, and 19-year-old Reuben Charlesworth, each admitted contempt of court for breaching the injunction by participating in a car cruise and by driving in convoy.

The two were among a number of people who had taken their cars to Flood Street car park in the early hours of August 9 last year.

The group disturbed nearby residents, who called police.

The pair, who had admitted the breach at a previous hearing, were handed suspended sentences at the High Court in Birmingham.

Green, of New Street, Quarry Bank was given four months and Charlesworth, of Harcourt Drive, Dudley, three months.

Dudley Council brought the case against the pair. Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "It is extremely disappointing that people think it's acceptable to take part in this anti-social behaviour, which upsets the lives of those living nearby."

"By bringing this case, we're sending a clear message to all those who take part in car cruising that we will be tough on it."

Dudley, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Walsall councils, working in partnership with West Midlands Police, secured the three-year injunction from the High Court in Birmingham in December 2014. It came into force in February 2015.

Art works are on show at The Portal

THE Dudley Canal and Tunnel Trust will be showcasing the works of local artists over the next two months.

The Brierley Hill Artists group will be staging the free admission exhibition until March 5 at The Portal, the Trust's HQ off Birmingham New Road

Work from Tim Nash, Bev Chalinor, Elaine Skidmore and Gail Belchamber will appear at the exhibition and the original artworks will be for sale. Holly Wain, heritage activities assistant at Dudley Canal Trust, said: "We're thrilled to showcase such gifted local artists with this new exhibition."

For more information, visit the trust's website at www.dudleycanaltrust.org.uk or call 0121 557 6265.

Gas leak was the cause of delays

A GAS leak caused significant delays on a main road into Brierley Hill on Wednesday last week. Dudley Council installed temporary traffic signals on Dudley Road to allow emergency work to take place in Stourbridge.

Tag for man who had knife in sport shop

A MAN who took a 'large combat knife' on a trip to a shopping centre in the Black Country with his parents has been given a suspended jail sentence.

Jordan Collins was in JD Sports at the Merry Hill centre when the weapon was discovered tucked into the waistband of his trousers.

The 23-year-old, from Dudley, claimed that he had the blade as he was going fishing straight after his shopping trip but this was dismissed by a judge at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

Prosecutor Mr Robert Perry said: "He was found in possession of what was described as a large combat knife."

"The knife was seized from him and he was taken to the police station."

Collins, of Vauxhall Street, pleaded guilty to possession of a bladed article and he was given a six-month jail sentence, which was suspended for 18 months.

He will also be electronically tagged under a night time curfew between 9pm and 8am.

Judge James Burbidge told Collins that it was likely he would have been given an immediate prison term, if he had not already served almost two months in custody following his arrest in November.

Serious

Judge Burbidge continued: "Having an article with a blade or point in a public place, especially the Merry Hill shopping centre where folk are going

about their lawful business doing their shopping, is a very serious offence."

"I do not for one minute accept your assertion that you were shopping in JD Sports waiting to go fishing and that you had the knife in your waistband for that purpose."

Mr Steve Hamblett, defending Collins, said: "The weapon was never actually brandished. Mr Collins was shopping with his mother and father."

"It wasn't used to threaten anyone and no members of the public saw the weapon."

The court heard how Collins had been arrested in relation to another offence, but no charges had been brought in connection with that.

One in four hospital car park fines are revoked

EVERY single parking fine appealed at Russells Hall Hospital over a year was successfully overturned.

New figures showed not one penalty was upheld when challenged by irate drivers. The surprising statistics mean every person who took the time to appeal their fine from Russells Hall during 2015/16 ended up not having to pay a penny.

Just over a quarter of drivers fined – 358 – appealed the penalty.

Those deemed to have broken the rules at the hospital are initially hit with a £70 fines but the bill is reduced to £40 if paid within 14 days.

A study from YourParkingSpace.co.uk found 26 per cent of fines from Russells Hall were appealed, which meant that more than 1,000 people paid up straight away.

Hospital bosses explained that the 'vast majority' of appeals were made by staff who had not put their permits on display.

If the 358 fines had been paid rather than appealed it would have brought in between £14,320 and £25,060.

Dudley councillor and senior UKIP member Bill Etheridge, who has been highly critical about parking fees at Russells Hall, said the figures showed anyone who feels they have been unfairly fined should appeal straight away.

Disgrace

He said: "If people feel they have been unjustly fined they should appeal, no question about it. Parking fees are an absolute disgrace anyway and taxpayers who already pay a huge amount to the NHS are being hit again."

"It's a cruel extra tax on the sick, people who work there and visitors who are worried enough as it is."

Motorists at Russells Hall are warned they will be fined if they park in drop-off areas for longer than the stated time, on red lines, on pavements or pedestrian walkways, on grass verges or block access for emergency vehicles.

A total of 1,360 fines were slapped on windcreens at Russells Hall during the last financial year, worth between £54,400 and £95,200.

Dr Paul Harrison, acting chief executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, said: "The vast majority of these appeals were from members of staff using the staff car parks for failing to display a valid parking permit. On checking our permit holder database to establish they had a valid permit, the fixed penalty notices were overturned by."

Fundraising dream comes true



Dreamland boss Mike Brown (centre) with the hospice's Josh Martin (left) and Simon Henwood

A BUSINESSMAN has given a £10,000 boost to help propel a Black Country hospice's fundraising efforts into the 21st century.

Mike "The Bed" Brown, of Dreamland Bedding, in Brierley Hill, has donated thousands of pounds to Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge over the years.

His latest gift has enabled the charity to develop an online sales presence so items donated to its charity shops can be sold through

sites such as Amazon and eBay to help bring in further funds.

The project to develop a digital sales hub has already seen the creation of three new jobs through the Government's apprenticeship scheme.

Mr Brown explained: "We have always considered it incredibly important to support those causes which do a tremendous amount of good for our community."

"Over the last decade, we're de-

lighted to have been able to raise more than £135,000 in support of the hospice's work and we will continue to do what we can for them."

Simon Henwood, head of finance at the hospice, said: "We have already undergone a significant transformation but we needed additional funds."

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Speed fines hike needs to trap the boy racers

TOUGHER laws for motorists come into force from April, with really stiff fines for the worst offenders.

For example, people caught speeding at 50mph in a 30mph zone can expect to be fined £1,000, with fines rising to up to £2,500 for the worst cases.

And to be blunt, I don't see the problem with it. Ok, driving bans for people doing 11mph over the limit seem a bit excessive, but I guess we'll just have to be careful.

Driving at 50mph in a built-up area is selfish, irresponsible, and dangerous. If it is sensibly enforced, those caught deserve to be hit in the pocket.

That is a big 'if', though. These things are never sensibly enforced.

I remember some time, about 15 years ago or so, there was a stretch of road in Cannock where the speed limit changed suddenly from 50mph to 30.

And you've guessed it, within a few yards of the sign was a carefully-concealed speed camera. A friend who worked in the area said it was well known to locals, and was always catching people out.

And that is the trouble with this sort of thing. I'm all in favour of throwing the book at self-centred boy racers with a casual disregard for public safety. If you ask me, fining them £2,500 is nowhere near enough. You can put 'em in the stocks and make 'em watch Howard's Way for all I care. I can be really sadistic like that.

But it never works out like that does it? Targeting the bad guys takes time, effort and money.

And "road safety partnerships" always seem more motivated by "working with partners in local government" to set up confusing new road layouts with onerous speed limits, which generate funds "to invest in other road safety measures". In other words, more cameras.

Expect to see more pensioners and working people being hit with crippling fines as they get caught out by new speed limits and hidden cameras. Meanwhile, the boy racers quickly work out where the speed traps are and move on to somewhere else.

□ □ □

WONDERFUL to see the traffic cones have now arrived for the extension to the Midland Metro tram line, which will mean an end to people having to walk 400 yards from the railway station.

What's more, for a cost to the taxpayer of £15 million, commuters will soon be able to travel from Wolverhampton station to Birmingham New Street – in more than double the time it takes on the train.



Telford's elegant Georgian stone bridge at Bewdley



Engineer Thomas Telford never forgot his humble origins



Pontcysyllte Aquaduct – known as the 'Stream in the Sky'

The man of iron who helped build Britain

A new book by Julian Glover hails Thomas Telford as Britain's greatest ever engineer

"TELFORD, for people on the move" went the early slogan for the new town created in Shropshire in the late 1960s.

And it turns out that that slogan captured much of the spirit of the great engineer after whom the town was named.

"He was always moving on," says Julian Glover, who has written a major new biography of Thomas Telford which has just been published and is BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week. "His life was all about movement. Never settled, always restless."

His book, called *Man of Iron*, hails Thomas Telford as a British great.

"I think Telford has been overlooked a little bit. He was Britain's greatest civil engineer," said Julian.

"Telford was a really significant figure in the creation of our country and our history and in shaping the skills of engineering which went on to change the world.

"My book tells the story of who he was, where he came from, and what he created. That's what I've tried to write, not just about structures and engineering, but the impact on his world."

Telford was not a Salopian, and neither is Julian, but as his parents have a home at Ditton Priors, near Bridgnorth, and he grew up knowing Telford's name.

In doing his research, he began at the place where 'Tammy Telfer' was born in humble circumstances, the son of an Eskdale shepherd in Dumfries, Scotland.

"I thought there was an extraordinary journey from a boy on the Scottish borders who might have spent his whole life looking after sheep, to a man who came to Shropshire and built great canals and the Pontcysyllte aqueduct.

"I began to explore his story and look in the



A horse drawn cargo being led beneath Telford's Galton Bridge, Smethwick, in the 1930s

archives, a lot of which are in London. People who met him were impressed by two things. One was that he was very practical. He was proud of where he came from and did not try to put on airs and graces, or spend money or buy a big house when successful. He was always proud of being a shepherd boy.

Jolly

"They saw him as strong and solid, not a fancy city person. The second thing they saw was that he was very good company, big, bluff, with a broad face. A lot of hair, did not dress up in flash clothes, very jolly with a lot of anecdotes, and friendly and generous. He gave a lot of money away. And he was absolutely driven, really hard working."

It was in Shropshire that Telford made his name, says Julian, and many of the best projects he worked on can still be found in the

county, or nearby in Wales or the Black Country.

He arrived in the county in late 1786, doing reconstruction at Shrewsbury Castle, and was soon busy with a wide range of projects, from building bridges and churches to doing excavations at Wroxeter Roman City, and had the role of county surveyor.

He designed Bridgnorth's neo-classical Church of St Mary Magdalene and the unusual octagonal church of St Michael's at Madeley.

After River Severn floods caused havoc in Shropshire and Worcestershire, he designed bridges for Buildwas, Bridgnorth and Bewdley.

He found fame as a builder of roads, bridges and canals. His major projects included linking the East and West coasts of Scotland via the Caledonian Canal and he also transformed the canal network in Birmingham and the Black

Country. One of his final projects was Galton Bridge at Smethwick, named after Samuel Galton of Birmingham's Lunar Society of pioneer industrialists. Built to Telford's design in 1829, the cast iron road bridge with its single span of 151 feet was a marvel of the later Georgian age. It spans James Brindley's canal, which Telford had improved, and still stands near the rail station which is named after it.

Although Shropshire was his home, he did not have a Shropshire home as such.

"The question of where Telford lived is a challenging one. He lived where the work was. Early on he did stay in the castle and letters are written in the castle.

"He would often stay with Archibald Alison at his rectory somewhere near Market Drayton."

As part of his research Julian, who lives in London, delved into archives at the Ironbridge Gorge Museum's Museum of Iron, and came to see some of the structures for which Telford was responsible in the county, such as the iron aqueduct at Longdon-on-Tern.

"I think the Longdon aqueduct is amazing because it's so early and looks like a completely modern thing.

Suspension

"Two other favourites are both in Wales. One is the Menai Bridge, the world's first big suspension bridge. And then the other one is Pontcysyllte aqueduct just over the border, which is a World Heritage Site. When you go to see it, it never disappoints."

As for the town which bears Telford's name, Julian says he has seen it grow, and has been struck by two things – the success in landscaping an industrial environment and the respect shown for the industrial heritage of the area.

"It did not try to hide from the past. It was unusual at the time for a town to do that.

"A lot of places in Britain neglected their past, Telford cherished it."

Man of Iron, published by Bloomsbury, £25.

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Raw deal on rail for Black Country

WOULD it not enable the four Black Country boroughs to compete more effectively with the honey pot that is Birmingham, if we completed the 120km Black Country Railway between Worcester and Derby.

This would enable the freight and passenger trains to return over the full length straight away and put Dudley back on the national railway network. Plus, an additional main line strategic railway for Sandwell and Walsall.

Yet, the councillors and transport bosses insist that only by doing trams and, later,

tram trains first can the freight and passenger trains' then return. But only by the 2040s at the earliest and only in the case of freight! And the 120km Black Country Railway will be needed for freight even more urgently once the passenger trains and stations return to the 39km of Birmingham freight only lines.

How typical. Birmingham gets HS2, trams on roads to replace diesel buses AND their passenger trains and stations back.

TIM WELLER
Halesowen

No justice for this dog

I WAS deeply saddened to read of the cruelty this beautiful dog experienced (Stourbridge Chronicle, January 26).

So the perpetrator got his just punishment. The poor dog recovered from his appalling injuries and was then euthanased. She had no justice. She did nothing wrong.

I beg the Government to look again at the Dangerous Dogs Act.

We are learning all the time that it is the owners, not dogs, who are to blame for most of the dangerous dogs we hear about.

These poor creatures become victims of humans. It is heartbreaking!

MRS PAT ORCHARD
Lye

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Caustic substances are a threat to cats

WE have four cats, all of whom have been rescued. We are also regularly visited by others looking for food and shelter.

One of these was a large ginger and white tom cat who was the local top cat. We have no idea to whom he belonged. Last week, a neighbour who also has cats, came to see if we had seen ginger as he had not looked well and had run off when our neighbour had tried to get him in a carrier to take him to the vet.

Ginger disappeared for a few days and I found him in our summerhouse looking unwell. As we have no idea where he belongs, I telephoned the RSPCA and was asked to isolate him and give him some food

and water. An RSPCA inspector came and said that he might have an abscess in his mouth as his mouth was bleeding. The inspector telephoned me later that day to say that Ginger had consumed something caustic as his mouth and throat were badly burned and his kidneys were damaged. He had to be put down.

I would urge people to get rid of caustic substances safely. However, if this was a deliberate act, then whoever has done it should be ashamed. It was fortunate that Ginger trusted us enough to come to us, otherwise he could have spent a long and agonising time until he starved to death

LEN HALES
Cradley Heath

Lay claim to cycling's home

RECENTLY in the national press there was an article that claimed that Yorkshire was the main centre of cycling in the country.

Someone wrote trying to put forward Wolverhampton as the 'capital', based on Percy Stallard's exploits.

When I first became interested in cycling in the late 1950s, there were lots of cycling clubs in the Midlands.

From my memory there were Wolverhampton Wheelers, Wolverhampton Racing Cycling Club, Penn CC, Wulfrun Olympic, Elizabethan CC, Wolverhampton CRA, Sedgley CC, Gornal Wheelers, Tipton RCC, Willenhall, West Bromwich Dartmouth, Audnam Wheelers, Wednesbury Velo, etc.

PETER COLE
Kingswinford

Tax is the answer to NHS crisis

THE Prime Minister's demand for GPs to open all hours is merely moving the problems to another part of the NHS.

The Government is fond of stating that there are more elderly people living longer, which should be a cause for celebration, but use it as an excuse for the failure of health services.

However, they are also eager to claim that we are the fifth largest economy in the world and that there are more people in work than ever before.

Therefore tax receipts should also be at an all-time high and public finances should be healthy. This is clearly not the case.

Successive Governments refuse to raise income taxes because they care more about clinging to power than providing for the people.

By raising taxes and closing all legal loopholes for tax dodgers, the fifth largest economy should be more than capable of rectifying the situation.

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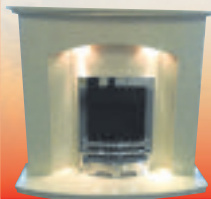
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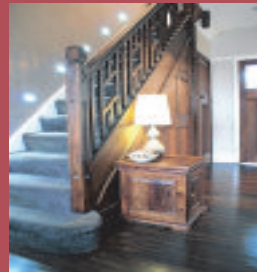
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Young Voices are heard at top venue



David Lawrence conducts the massed youth choirs



Belle Vue Primary School's Sarah White takes a bow

THOUSANDS of youngsters have been singing their hearts out as part of one of the largest school choir concerts in the world.

Schools from across the Black Country took part in the Young Voices 2017 event, which is being held at Birmingham's Genting Arena, in front of thousands of proud parents.

Last Tuesday evening's show was just the first of six nights of Young Voices concerts in the city. Choirs had been in training since

Youngsters from the Black Country and beyond took part in concerts, Jessica Labhart reports

September, learning all 12 songs they performed during the show, as well as all the choreography that saw them get to their feet and dance the night away.

The children, aged from around eight to 12 years old, were some of 130,000 who are involved in the Young Voices 2017 project, which sees youngsters perform at major venues across the UK and internationally. They perform in their

school choirs as part of the collective YV Choir.

The project began in the mid-1990s when managing director David Lewis came up with the idea of making music accessible to all children.

Therapy

Now Young Voices hosts 22 concerts around the UK each year, and in doing so, raises money for good causes, which this year includes music therapy charity Nordoff Robbins and anti-hunger charity FareShare.

The glittering event was hosted by Gigi Morley and conducted by David Lawrence. The children sang a variety of songs from Birdhouse In Your Soul, originally performed by They Might Be Giants, to Stronger Together, made popular by Gareth Malone and the Military Wives choir.

The youngsters even wowed the audience with their rendition of African song Maliswe, in the Zulu language, accompanied by African drums and instruments.

Elston Hall pupil Graham Fletcher, aged 11, of Bushbury said: "This is the first time I've performed here. I really love music and I think it's great that we have come out and have the chance to sing together."

Katie Perry, head of music at the school said: "It's amazing to see them all here. They've really been



Some of the thousands of youngsters at the concerts

looking forward to it and fitting in extra practice when they can."

Dudley's Alder Coppice Primary School were involved as was Cradley CE Primary, whilst Belle Vue school, Stourbridge also took part. Andrea Perrett, musical director and teacher said: "It is one of the most exciting highlights of the school year for the children and they absolutely love it."

Pupils from Sandwell's Tividale Community Primary School and St John's C of E Primary Academy, as well as St Mary's CE (VC) Primary in Kingswinford too part as well.

The song Over The Hills took the audience on a 'musical tour through the British Isles' which ended in the children singing in Welsh. Some of the songs were also translated into sign language. The show also included guest

performers, including street dancers Urban Stride, beatbox artists The Beatbox Collective and Irish musician Tabby Callaghan, who finished third on the first series of The X Factor in 2004. He performed his rendition of Guns N' Roses classic, Sweet Child o' Mine. Jazz artist Natalie Williams took to the stage to perform Keane's Somewhere Only We Know and Nina Simone classic I Got Life.

Ben Lewis, managing director of Young Voices said: "When we started this event in 1996 we never thought we would end up here. The popularity of Young Voices has really snowballed and I think that's because we are giving children a unique opportunity - to perform in the same arena where The Vamps and One Direction have performed."

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COMPETITION

GET revved up you motor fans, a fantastic line-up of rallying and racing legends is joining the 15th anniversary 'Super Show' celebrations of Race Retro.

The international historic motorsport show returns to Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, from Friday, February 24- Sunday, February 26. And 15 readers will have to chance to win a pair of tickets.

The 'Flying Finns' of rally drivers Ari Vatanen and Markku Alén will both be in action, behind the wheel on the Live Rally Stage, joining the 70-80 cars and drivers from Rallying with Group B, while inside the halls Le Mans legend Tom Kristensen will be on the Motor Sport Live Stage along with motorcycle champion 'Fast' Freddie Spencer.

Vatanen appears on Saturday and Sunday, while Alén will be in the show on Friday afternoon before driving on Saturday. Kristensen also appears on Saturday as an inductee in the Motor Sport Hall of Fame. Spencer, nominated as an inductee for 2017, appears Saturday and Sunday.

The Motor Sport Hall of Fame will see an entire hall dedicated to inductees into this auspicious role of honour. Visitors will get the chance to see cars and bikes linked to Hall of Fame inductees from racing and rallying as well as enjoying live interviews with the stars on the Motor Sport Live Stage.

There will be a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Cosworth DFV, curated by designer Mike Costin, with cars including Keke Rosberg's Williams FW08, a Cosworth 4-wd and a McLaren 23 on display.

There will also be a tribute to Jim Clark with the first appearance in over



Show is a must date for all the retro car fans

four decades of the Lotus 33 chassis R11 which is about to benefit from a sympathetic restoration by Classic Team Lotus, with Clive Chapman at the show to talk about the project.

Race Retro will also mark 40-years of Donington Park with a display from the Donington Grand Prix Collection as well as highlighting the teenagers competing in Historic Motorsport as an avenue to becoming a professional racing driver in 'Teenage Kicks'.

The halls will have more classic cars and historic motorsport vehicles than ever before covering all disciplines from Formula One to hill climbing, rally to GT cars, with fantastic displays by motorsport clubs from around the UK.

Silverstone Auctions return with two sales - its traditional Classics vehicle sale on Sunday along with a dedicated Competition Car sale on Saturday.

Visitors also have the opportunity to drive a professionally prepared classic car, have a rally driver and navigator masterclass, or take part in the Retro

Classic Tour, thanks to HERO, the Historic Endurance Rally Organisation.

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Tickets for Race Retro 2017 are now on sale with free parking and a free show guide for all visitors. For the latest updates, visit www.racetroretro.com

HOW TO ENTER

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets send your name, phone number and email address (the organisers will send tickets) to Retro Car Competition, Chronicle editorial 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday February 9.



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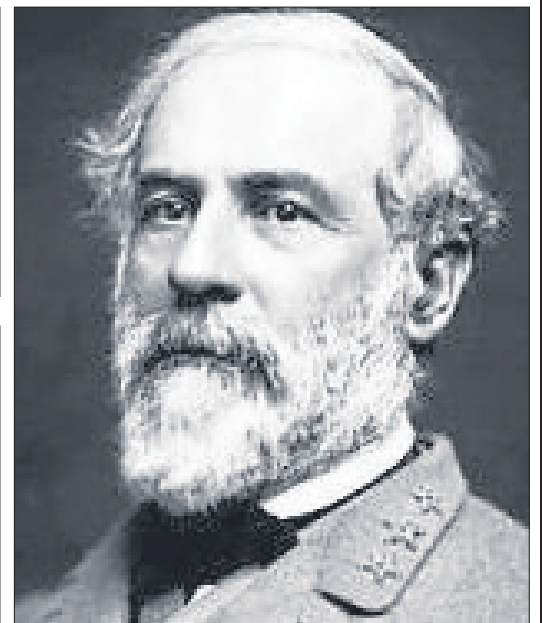
Coton Hall, a tunnel leads to the Anglo-Saxon church and maybe beyond



One of the living rooms at the hall, which is in 6.3 acres of its own grounds



One of the rooms at Shropshire's Coton Hall, which is offered for sale at £2.25m



General Robert E Lee, whose American home became Arlington Cemetery



One of the elegant rooms at Coton Hall, which is between Bridgnorth and Alveley

Hall's link to US general

IT was once home to the family of one of the Confederate leaders of the American Civil War – and if you have a spare £2.25 million in your pocket it could be yours.

Coton Hall, an eight-bedroom mansion in the Shropshire countryside, is steeped in history.

It is best known as the ancestral home of the Lee family – one of America's most successful families. Two members of the Lee dynasty signed the Declaration of Independence.

They have also been governors, a president and General Robert E Lee – a famous Confederate general. It has now been put up for sale with estate agents Savills.

As well as the house and grounds the site also includes the ruins of a former chapel.

The Lee family – originally named de la Lee and probably of Norman descent – owned a sizeable chunk of Shropshire for about 500 years. They lived at Coton Hall, near Bridgnorth, from the 1300s and the last member of the family to live there was Harry Lee, who died some 200 years ago. Not much remains of the Coton Hall the American Lees would recognise.

The current property was built in the early 19th century for Harry Lee and at the time the estate ran to 5,000 acres.

When he died in 1821 the house passed out of the Lee family and after its was sold it was extended in about 1860 when a new wing and Italianate tower were added.

The home has an entrance hall, drawing room, dining room, sitting room, library, kitchen/breakfast room, games room, study and eight bedrooms. It also has two self-contained three-bedroom apartments and 6.3 acres with the picturesque ruins of Coton Chapel, which it is linked to via a tunnel from the cellars.



An aerial view of the house and ruined chapel at Coton Hall

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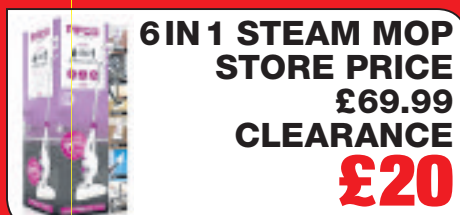
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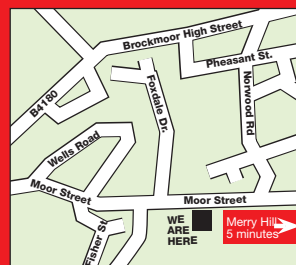
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Inspectors tell GP practice that it still needs to improve its service to patients

A GP practice in Dudley, previously placed in special measures, has been told by the health watchdog that it still needs to improve.

The latest Care Quality Commission (CQC) report states some staff at Dudley Partnerships for Health are not always aware of some of the responsibilities of their colleagues.

The practice, on Quarry Road in Dudley, has 2,600 patients and was previously placed in special measures in February 2016.

Inspectors at that time found the practice was not operating an effective system with regards to monitoring high risk medicines.

But a report from the most recent inspection on October 12 has now rated the practice as 'requires improvement'.

Aware

The report states: "We found staff were not always aware of some of the key responsibilities of their colleagues that were specific to key processes."

The report said: "The high level leadership and accountability structures were not always clear

and embedded well enough to provide assurance that improvement in the practice were sustainable.

"The practice did not follow a robust process to effectively manage uncollected prescriptions. During our inspection we noticed that the practice had not followed their own repeat prescribing protocol regarding issuing specific medication."

From a national GP survey published in July 2016, nearly two thirds (65 per cent) of patients said the overall experience of the practice is good. That compares with a national average of 85 per cent.

The practice was praised for its 'friendly, com-

mitted staff" and for new effective process to allow for adequate monitoring of high risk medication.

Joanne Chilton, practice manager, said: "The quality and standard of care that we provide to our patients is important to us."

"Although we are disappointed with the results of our recent inspection, it does reflect the hard work and commitment of our staff to swiftly address the issues. We are committed to continue making progress for our patients. If any of our patients have questions we would welcome feedback."

Fitness boost for charities

A CHARITY fitness bootcamp has raised more than £400 in memory of inspirational Stourbridge man Rob Eves, who died last year after a battle with cancer.

People came together at Blake-down Pavillion on January 7 to burn some Christmas calories and be put through their paces by Pincher Fitness, to support the work done by the Mary Stevens Hospice and Midland Air Ambulance.

The £416.82 raised through the bootcamp was split between the two charities, which are both close to the hearts of the family-run personal training company.

Compliments to the chef



Now and then – catering boss Andrew Singer, aged 78, holds a picture from his early days at his retirement party in Wall Heath with his sister Dulcie Cadwallader

A CHEF who started his own business after honing his cookery skills in the navy, has decided to take his well-earned retirement at the age of 78.

After almost 40 years of running his own catering firm, Andrew Singer from Wordsley is retiring, closing his business Anddor Catering. The name of the business blends the names of Andrew and his late wife Dorothy.

Andrew marked his retirement by enjoy-

ing a meal with family, friends and former Anddor staff at The Wall Heath Tavern.

Born in Netherton, Andrew joined the merchant navy at the age of 16 and learned to cook aboard the SS British Merchant.

Andrew worked in Beatties' kitchen for a couple of years, but then decided to set up on his own and founded Anddor in 1978.

He said: "I'll really miss the job but I can still cook for the family. I'll miss seeing all my old customers."

Ambulance staff 'outstanding', says care quality commission

AMBULANCE bosses have praised their staff after a trust was rated 'outstanding' by the health watchdog.

West Midlands Ambulance Service, which cares for about 5.6 million people and covers around 5,000-square miles, received the highest rating from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) following the inspection last summer.

Chief Executive Anthony Marsh praised staff members who 'work so hard'

for patients and fellow colleagues.

He said the trust was 'delighted' with the glowing report, the first time an ambulance service in England had been rated outstanding.

Effectiveness

Inspectors said the trust was outstanding in terms of its effectiveness and care.

It was also rated good for its safety, leadership and responsiveness.

WMAS responds to

around 3,000 999 calls everyday and sends out ambulances from more than 90 stations across the region.

Mr Marsh said: "I am incredibly proud of my staff and the volunteers who support us, for providing the best possible care to patients across the West Midlands."

"Helping others is at the heart of everything we do and I am hugely pleased that the CQC saw a positive, patient centred culture."

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Competitors pose for a photo before the first charity fun run inside Merry Hill shopping centre

THERE was a stampede in the aisles of the Merry Hill shopping centre – but it wasn't the latest sale. Eager athletes descended on the centre for an indoor charity run. Led by Pure Gym, the group started with fun warm-ups before running the perimeter of the centre before shops opened at 11am on Sunday.

Assistant marketing manager at Intu Merry Hill, Naomi Campbell, said: "In January everyone wants to get fit and healthy again and we wanted to help our customers as well as helping with charity. We thought it would be nice to hold a charity run inside the centre." The event raised fund for Wolverhampton-based Promise Dreams.

Danger driver reached 89mph

A DANGEROUS driver who sped through residential streets at more than 80mph has been jailed.

Anton Henry had no driving licence and was not insured as he raced through the streets of the Black Country, narrowly avoiding hitting a cyclist and a lorry.

The 23-year-old drove off at high speed when a police car travelling on Ambicote Road, Brierley Hill, flashed its blue lights instructing him to pull

over at around 9.30pm on September 26, a judge heard.

Police dash-cam footage played to Wolverhampton Crown Court showed Henry's car speeding along Ambicote Road, Stamford Road, Thorns Road and other 30mph limit residential streets at speeds of 70mph and 80mph.

Roundabout

He ignored a red light and went the wrong way around a roundabout and the highest speed recorded was 89mph.

The chase came to an end when he lost control. Henry tried to flee on foot but was caught by officers.

Henry, of St John's Road, Kates Hill, was sentenced to six months in prison after pleading guilty to dangerous driving, using a vehicle without insurance and driving without a licence.

He was banned from driving for a year. Mr Richard Franck, defending, said: "He just panicked as he had no licence or insurance."

Judge James Burbidge said it was 'more by luck than judgement' that nobody was hurt.

Threats will not halt mother's campaign

A FAMILY who turned heart-break into fundraising after their daughter was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis have been targeted by internet trolls.

Mother Samantha Carrier, from Dudley, has been subjected to abuse since she uploaded a video on social media which showed the harsh realities of the disease.

It showed Samantha performing physiotherapy on her daughter, Daisy, which she has to do to help the child breathe better by clearing mucus from her chest.

Thousands of people have criticised Samantha over the video, which has received over 150,000 views, asking such questions as 'how can you do that to a baby' and 'you'll break her ribs'.

But Samantha states that the threats she's received have 'spurred' her on to fundraise for Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Awareness

She said: "I've been trying to raise awareness since Daisy was first diagnosed but everything went through the roof after I uploaded the video.

"People have been saying that I'm beating my own child. Someone even messaged me to say that I should have my head chopped off.

"We have to do the physiotherapy three times a day, even if we're out, so I thought I'd do the video to raise awareness, as not many people would know what I was doing."

She added: "I didn't let the horrible messages get to me, if anything, it's spurred me on to raise even more awareness."

Samantha and her husband began fundraising when they found out about the diagnosis and raised £676 within seven days. Since then, the



Samantha Carrier with daughter Daisy, who has to have regular

family have raised more than £1,100.

Samantha said that she has also had positive messages from parents around the world.

"I've had mothers from Korea and America message me and tell me how fantastic the video. It's nice to see that the campaigning I'm doing is helping people all around the world."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin MP is backing the family by campaigning for a potential life-saving drug for the disease, Orkambi, which can treat the symptoms, to be available in the UK.

Mr Austin urged the Government to listen to the recommendations of the NHS Accelerated Access Review which could change the way the new drugs are assessed.

He said in Parliament: "These new treatments can transform people's lives, but thousands of people are set to miss out on these new drugs under the current rules."

"That's why I'm campaigning to make the Government change the rules on commissioning new treatments."

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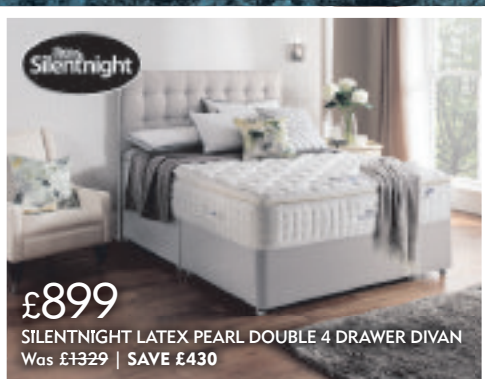
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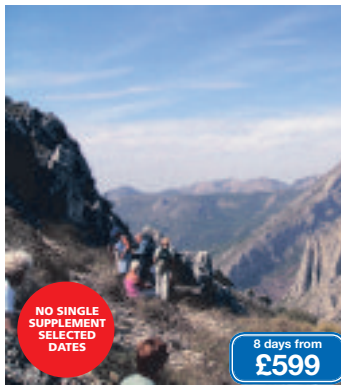
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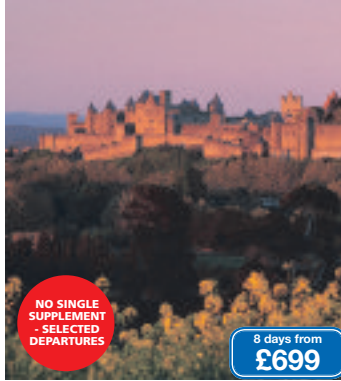
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All aboard for the Shuttle sing-along



Passengers on the Stourbridge Shuttle are serenaded with the new song by members of Black Country Ukulele Band

COMMUTERS are urged to 'Gerron Board' a Black Country rail system in a new song written by former Dexys Midnight Runners bassist, Pete Williams.

Williams has joined forces with The Black Country Ukulele Band to create the catchy tune, which has been uploaded to the SoundCloud.

The song celebrates everything about the Stourbridge Shuttle and now a video could be made to accompany the quirky song.

Alan Love, from the band, said: "We went to Fred Skidmore's studios in Stourbridge and it all went from there.

"We recorded it over two days and put it together and it was really exciting.

"When we first heard the song we loved it. The lyrics were wonderful. It has a real Black Country heart to it."

Lyrics

He added: "The shuttle is brilliant. It's a wonderful concept and to be able to promote it in this way is great."

The lyrics about the shuttle keep the Black Country vibe alive with lines such as 'you've bin up Brum, or further afield, a long way from home. You see that little tram, there is plenty of

space, you don't have to cram you can be who you am. So gerron board the Stourbridge Shuttle'.

And 'seven days a week every 10 minutes or so just take your pick, when its icy, sleet and rain or under the sun never complain not this little train'.

John Parry, from Parry People Movers Limited, added: "It's a lovely song that works incredibly well about our little shuttle."

To listen to the song in full, visit at <https://soundcloud.com/petewilliams/gerron-board-the-stourbridge-shuttle/s-a06DY>

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Family gave me up to save me from Nazis



Dutch Holocaust survivor Henri Obstfeld speaking at the Dudley Holocaust Memorial Commemoration at Dudley College

IMAGINE being separated from your parents at the age of just two.

This is what happened to Henri Obstfeld, who survived the Holocaust as a result of his parents' heart-wrenching decision to leave him with strangers in order to save his life.

Speaking in front of a packed auditorium at Dudley College, Henri shared happy family photographs taken when he was a child, which belied the incredible survival story behind them.

The event on Holocaust Memorial Day was organised by Dudley College Students' Union and Dudley North

MP Ian Austin, who introduced Henri, aged 76, who now lives in London.

Born in Amsterdam in April 1940, the infant Henri was living through a time of turmoil for the Netherlands with the Nazis invading the month after his birth.

Bombers

After the Luftwaffe's bombers lay waste to Rotterdam, the Dutch surrendered and its Jewish population soon found themselves being targeted in a wave of discriminatory actions. "It wasn't just Jews, but also Jehovah's witnesses, black people, Freemasons, and many other groups," said Henri.

Then his parents Abraham and Jackie received a letter for the toddler to report to the Nazi authority.

Henri remembers being taken by his parents to a house in Arnhem, where a couple lived that he had never previously met. On the second visit, his parents suddenly left him with his Dutch 'foster parents'. He survived thanks to a cover story that he was a nephew who had lost his parents in the bombing of Rotterdam and later heard that his parents had gone into hiding.

At the time he was heart-broken but later understood his parents' selfless act to protect him. They were reunited after the war.

Heritage Lottery boost for landmark Georgian church

A SIX-FIGURE project to repair crumbling stonework at a landmark church will begin next month.

St Thomas' Church in Stourbridge town centre has won a £149,100 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the project.

The Grade I listed church is 260 years old but its age means stonework could make the building unsafe if repair work is not carried out.

Work is also due to start on February 13 on the church toilets in the North Porch before scaffolding goes up outside the Georgian church in April.

Project co-ordinator Wendy Hemming said: "The stonework is crumbling, if allowed to continue then access would have to be restricted to the church due to falling masonry."

Not all of the grant will be used for building work. Some cash will

also be used to train guides, organise tours of the church and talks on the history of the building, as well as providing display information boards for visitors.

It is hoped the work will result in the church, currently used for three services a week (twice Sundays and once on Wednesdays), being visited by more people.

Priest-in-charge, Reverend Andrew Sillis, said: "Everyone at St Thomas's Church is delighted with the wonderful news that the Heritage Lottery Fund are supporting our church project."

"Thanks to National Lottery players, we're now able to restore worn out parts of our historic building to their original condition and improve access for the whole community."

The church is also known for its musical tradition and has a choir.



Rev Andrew Sillis and project co-ordinator Wendy Hemming at St Thomas's Church in Stourbridge

Housing support offer help sessions

A HOUSING support drop-in session has been launched in Stourbridge following success in other areas.

Dudley Council's housing services provides a free housing support drop-in service, available to anyone needing assistance to maintain their independence by accessing support for their needs.

Advice and guidance is available on many issues, ranging from budgeting and finances, welfare benefits, completing a range of application forms and available local resources.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing, said: "We have drop-in sessions throughout the borough to ensure as many residents have access to the free service as possible. Anyone worried about keeping their home or maintaining their independence can just drop into one of the sessions, as no appointment is necessary."

The new session is being held on the first and third Monday of every month at Lions Health Centre on Lowndes Road in Stourbridge from 1.30pm. For more information visit www.dudley.gov.uk/dropinservice or call (01384) 812504.

Paramedic flies in for life-saving blood trial

A HELICOPTER paramedic for Midlands Air Ambulance has been drafted in to help researchers in a ground-breaking project that could help save lives of patients.

Jim Hancox, who works for the Stourbridge-based charity, will help trial giving patients blood transfusions at the scene of accidents.

The study will see whether giving patients blood transfusions who have suffered major injuries and blood loss in accidents is better than traditional saline drips.

Mr Hancox's role as a research critical care paramedic, will be to coordinate the logistics of the project.

This will include the recruitment of 25 patients for the pilot phase of the study.

Patients who suffer major injuries and are attended by ambulance crews in the West Midlands will be the first patients in the study.

They will be given either blood transfusions or saline drips at random, before their progress to recovery is then monitored.



Air paramedic Jim Hancox

best evidence demonstrating that giving pre-hospital blood products is beneficial and, of course, there are significant clinical, logistical and financial consequences to giving all patients this treatment."

He continued: "The blood products we will be using will be a combination of O-negative blood, the universal group which can be given to anyone, and freeze dried plasma.

"We will of course ensure that people who may not wish to receive blood products – such as Jehovah's Witnesses – are identified and specifically excluded from the trial."

Jim, aged 36, who lives in Malvern with his wife Bernice, was a baker before training as a flight paramedic.

Meanwhile, it has been announced that the air ambulance charity, based at RAF Cosford, has received a £1 million grant towards the £7m cost of a new air ambulance.

Years

In total project organisers hope to expand the study to other areas around the country, testing 500 people in total across three years.

Mr Hancox said patients who wish not to receive blood transfusions won't be given them.

The project is being lead Dr Nicholas Crombie, consultant trauma anaesthetist at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, alongside the MAA charity and Gavin Perkins, Professor of Critical Care Medicine at the University of Warwick and a consultant at Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust.

Mr Hancox said: "Anyone who is suspected to be actively bleeding as the result of a traumatic injury, is over the age of 16 and not pregnant can be included in the trial."

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Bid to trace man's family

A coroner is seeking information about a man who died at Sandwell General Hospital.

Janis Puzaks, 59, is believed to have been born in Latvia but was of no fixed address when he died on January 16.

Anyone with information is asked to call Russell Williams on 0121 569 7200 or email Russell_williams@sandwell.gcsx.gov.uk

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V special day to mark milestone



Visitors will get a chance to see the Valiant aircraft up close



A Vulcan bomber on display at RAF Cosford

THE Royal Air Force Museum at Cosford celebrates the 10th anniversary of its award-winning National Cold War Exhibition next week, giving visitors close-up access to some of the aircraft on show.

The celebration takes place next Tuesday from 10am to 4pm at the museum.

The £12.5 million landmark building and exhibition was officially opened in 2007 by HRH The

RAF Cosford's Cold War exhibition celebrates its 10th birthday. JESSICA LABHART reports

Princess Royal and was attended by VIP guests including the Rt Hon Baroness Thatcher.

To mark the milestone, visitors are invited to join museum staff and volunteers for a special event that will see a number of Cold War aircraft opened for exclusive close up access, including the Vickers Valiant B1 and the Handley Page Victor K2.

Both aircraft are being opened to the public for the very first time

and the Cosford team hope aviation fans will seize the opportunity to step on board two of Britain's nuclear strike force aircraft, which played a vital role during the critical Cold War years.

The Valiant was the first of Bomber Command's V class aircraft and established Britain's airborne nuclear deterrent force before pioneering operational in-flight refuelling in the Royal Air Force. Not only was it the first V-Bomber to enter service, it was also the first to drop an operational British nuclear weapon over Christmas Island in 1957.

Utilised

The Victor was designed and in service as a strategic nuclear bomber, some were converted to in-flight refuelling tankers and remained in service until 1993.

Victors were heavily utilised in the 1982 Falklands campaign and the 1991 Gulf War before retiring from service in 1993.

Both aircraft now reside at the RAF Museum Cosford, displayed alongside the Hawker Siddeley Vulcan B2 and dominate the upper level of the National Cold War Exhibition.

Other Cold War aircraft and vehicles being opened to the public for the anniversary event will include the General Dynamics F-111F-CF, Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG 21PF, Hawker Hunter F.4 (nose section),



The Princess Royal opens the Cold War exhibition on February 7, 2007

Avro York C1, McDonnell Douglas Phantom FG.1 (nose section) and the Short Brothers Belfast. In addition, visitors can take a look inside the Mikoyan-Gurevich MiG-15bis, the BMP-1 infantry fighting vehicle, Green Goddess auxiliary fire engine and the Tracked Rapier missile launcher.

RAF Museum assistant director Paul Pomfret said: "The National Cold War Exhibition transformed the Cosford site with its award-winning architecture and

catapulted the museum onto a global stage, doubling the number of visitors who pass through its doors each year.

"Since its opening in 2007, over 3.2 million visitors have passed through its doors and interest in the exhibition and the museum has remained consistent ever since.

"We look forward to welcoming visitors to share in the celebrations for this milestone."

For more information, visit www.rafmuseum.org/cosford

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Balti bosses fined over hygiene breaches

THE owners of an Indian restaurant in Stourbridge have been fined for breaching food hygiene regulations. Bosses at Tropical Balti pleaded guilty at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court to six offences at its restaurant on the High Street. It followed an inspection by food safety officers from Dudley Council in February 2016.

The offences included failing to implement an adequate food safety management system, failing to keep the premises and equipment clean and in good repair and condition, failing to protect food from contamination and failing to ensure that food handlers wore clean protective over clothing. The restaurant received a hygiene

rating of zero. The owners were fined £5,000, ordered to pay Dudley Council costs of £1,250, as well as a victim surcharge of £170. Cabinet member Councillor Rachel Harris said: "We will not hesitate to take legal action against the minority of food businesses that fail to meet their legal responsibilities."

Pictures give glimpse inside £450k chop shop

THESE pictures show the £450,000 chop shop in Bilston where stolen cars from around the UK were dismantled.

It was uncovered by police after a tracker on a BMW stolen in Stockport sent signals from the garage in Oxford Street.

The Chronicle's sister publication The Express & Star had earlier reported that vehicle repair business boss Eamonn O'Malley had been jailed for three years and seven months for helping to dispose of the cars, with an estimated value of around £450,000.

Police found the stolen 1 Series BMW, together with a hoard of parts from vehicles stolen from across the West Midlands, Manchester, London, Stoke and Nottingham. O'Malley, of Stanton Road, Wolverhampton, fled using a ladder to scale a 12ft perimeter wall as police arrived in October 2015.

He was arrested three days later but claimed he sub-let part of the yard to a man who regularly shipped car parts to Poland.

The 58-year-old, who has a string of past convictions for dishonesty and theft offences, admitted 22 charges



A tracker device from a stolen BMW of handling stolen property and was jailed at Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

The owners of all the cars had been traced by police, the court was told.

Manuals

DC Lee Plant said: "We found parts, keys and owners' manuals relating to an Audi Q5, two Porsches, BMWs and a Mercedes. There was evidence that at least 22 stolen vehicles had passed through O'Malley's yard with a combined value of £448,000."

"Most were stolen in the West Midlands - including Dudley, Sutton Coldfield, Walsall, Selly Oak and Wol-



£450k worth of cars were disposed

verhampton - but others were traced to car thefts in Bromsgrove, Hyde, Bury, Nottingham, Stoke and London. "O'Malley was providing a market for car thieves across the UK, people who were causing misery and huge inconvenience to motorists, and it's only right given the scale of his illegal operation that he's been handed a long jail term."

Police added a large quantity of stolen Virgin Media set top boxes, internet routers, TV remote controllers, cabling and fitting equipment were also found at O'Malley's car yard.

The boxes matched stock stolen from a van on April 14.

Teenager's hunger led to 95mph chase

A TEENAGER from Brierley Hill with no driving licence drove a car at up to 95mph when pursued by police.

Grant Chance-Hill, who had cannabis in his system, tried to make a getaway when officers in a patrol car ordered him to stop, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 19-year-old ignored the officers and sped off along Duncan Edwards Way, in Dudley, reaching speeds of 95mph along the dual carriageway, just after 1am on October 4 last year.

Police dash-cam footage showed how the chase came to an end when he took a sharp left turn at a roundabout, losing control of the car and careering over the central reservation. He pulled into a cul-de-sac where he was arrested.

Checks of the black Vauxhall Astra's number plate found it had no tax, insurance or MOT.

Chance-Hill, of Lower Valley Road, Brierley Hill, was given a six-month jail term, suspended for 12 months, after pleading guilty to dangerous driving, driving without insurance or a licence and drug-driving.

Tagged

He will also be electronically tagged under curfew between 9pm and 7am.

He said that he had driven as he was hungry and was heading for a local McDonald's restaurant.

Mr Richard Franck, prosecuting, said: "The officers followed him and tried to stop him on Duncan Edwards Way. When they lit the blue lights the defendant accelerated and drove off at speed."

Mr Simon Hands, defending, said: "It was a poor piece of driving but it doesn't have the attributes of other cases."

"He took a stupid decision to go to McDonald's."

Judge James Burbidge said it was fortunate it was 1.10am and that there was little traffic on the roads.

He told Chance-Hill: "You were going double the speed limit. Mercifully there was limited traffic."

Bird house scheme halted



The bird house back in its heyday at Dudley Zoo, where plans to relaunch it as part of the 80th anniversary have been quashed by heritage bosses

PLANS to reopen one of the most famous of the original Tecton buildings at Dudley Zoo as part of its 80th anniversary celebrations have been halted.

The relaunch of the Tropical Bird House has been put on the back burner at the Castle Hill attraction.

A major revamp costing £295,000 to create modern enclosures was announced at the end of last year.

Bosses said they were 'disappointed' plans to reopen the bird house were not going ahead.

Derek Grove, zoo director, said: "We felt this was a wonderful oppor-

tunity to bring an original Tecton building back into use during our 80th year as an all-weather indoor exhibit for small South American species. But we've been informed by heritage officials they'd prefer to develop a plan to explore potential opportunities for all the remaining unrestored Grade II-listed Tecton structures on site, rather than just devising options for the Tropical Bird House."

The protected Tecton buildings are considered classic examples of modernist 20th century architecture.

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Sad owner Trisha Uccellini with stock which is being sold off at half price



Fleetwood Mac guitarist Peter Green



Trisha Uccellini with Gabrielle Drake, sister of singer Nick Drake



Wizzard frontman Roy Wood



Trisha Uccellini with her treasure trove of items

It's vintage finish for costume drama

A MUCH-LOVED clothes shop, frequented by rock-world royalty, is closing its doors after 43 years.

Trisha's Vintage Clothing in Wolverhampton has been the must-go-to shop for musicians appearing at the Civic Hall.

Customers calling in for a leather jacket or faux fur waistcoat might well find Roy Wood or Motorhead's Lemmy mooching through the same rails. At the helm of the tiny emporium for all that time has been the eternally fabulous Trisha Uccellini, still a rock chick.

Despite being past retirement age, she is shutting shop not out of choice but to be with her son Marco a website designer who has been diagnosed with a serious illness.

The location in Blossoms Fold, off Darlington Street, was perfect for such a business but its proximity to the Civic was merely a happy accident, it turns out.

"I was very choosy about the location," says Trisha. "It had to be

MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

in one of Wolverhampton's lovely Victorian folds. It seemed to be in keeping with the vintage theme, although when I started out, I was selling all my own designs with only the odd bit of Victoriana."

That was in January 1974 and actress Gabrielle Drake, who was appearing in panto at The Grand with Trisha's musician husband Georgio, performed the official opening.

Trisha turned to retail after years of touring with Georgio in Europe. She was bright, a former student of King Edward's School in Camp Hill, Birmingham, where she grew up, but not academic, she says. The family moved to Wolverhampton when she was 14 and even then there were signs that she was destined for a career in fashion. She was developing her own individual style, getting into trouble for wearing a dufflecoat over

her school uniform. Her years on the road with Georgio, who had his own band at the time, later joining 60s pop groups The Fourmost and Freddie and The Dreamers, sowed the seeds of her later career.

She started making stage outfits – flamboyant shirts and flared trousers – for her husband's band, and then for other musicians on the gigging circuit. Young people flocked to her shop – there was nothing like it in Wolverhampton – but she couldn't keep up with demand, eventually forced to give up making her own stock to buy in.

Keeping it authentic she used to travel to New York and Los Angeles to buy her gear. "Ironically I used to get a lot of American bands making a special pilgrimage to my shop for clothes that I'd bought in America," she says.

Eventually she became as well known among the rock community as some of her customers. Famous bands to grace her boutique have been Whitesnake, W.A.S.P., Skindred, Steel Panther, Echo and the Bunnymen, the list goes on.



US musician Duff McKagan's Loaded at Download Festival

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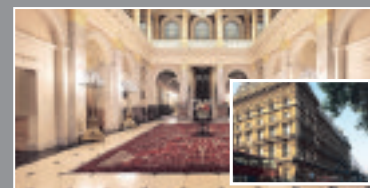
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Call for fair level of investment

DUDLEY North MP Ian Austin has demanded a fairer share of transport investment for the West Midlands.

He used a House of Commons debate on the Midlands economy to highlight new figures from Birmingham City University, which show that in 2014-15 the Midlands population of 10.4 million had £1.72 billion invested, compared with £3.87bn for London's 8.7 million people.

The new figures also reveal that transport funding per capita in the West Midlands is less than half of that in Scotland, as well as under 40 per cent of the level in London.

Mr Austin said: "It's outrageous we get so much less than London and Scotland. It's my job to go to Parliament and demand we get our fair share. Businesses tell me that boosting infrastructure spending to the levels spent in London and Scotland would make a massive difference to their success and the number of jobs they can create."

Brother inspires contest bid



Sadie Williams, aged 14, from Dudley has entered the Miss Teen GB beauty pageant

A TEENAGER has set her sights on the Miss Junior Teen Great Britain title after being inspired by her little brother's battle against a rare heart condition.

Sadie Williams must first win the title of Miss Junior Teen Dudley, which will bag her a place in the finals at The Globe Theatre in Blackpool later this year.

To win the title, the 14-year-old, from Hillmeads Drive, Dudley, has to raise the most money for children's charity Together for Short Lives by July 1.

It is an important cause for Sadie, as her younger brother Mason, aged six, was born with hypoplastic left heart syndrome, meaning that this side of his heart is underdeveloped, affecting blood flow.

Her family, including mother Melodie, father Paul, siblings Harmonie and Dominic, are right behind her.

Rail firm spending £15m on improving

JUST over half of all passengers using London Midland trains in the West Midlands think that the service is offering value for money.

A survey revealed that 55 per cent of customers said they were happy with the money they were paying to use the train service. That was compared to 71 per cent of customers using Virgin Trains on the line from London to Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury, and 64 per cent using Chiltern Railways services in the West Midlands.

Three quarters of London Midland passengers said they were satisfied with punctuality – fewer than both Virgin Trains and Chiltern Railways passengers – however 85 per cent of customers did say they were satisfied overall.

A London Midlands spokesman said: "We welcome this feedback. Many of the areas where passengers say they want more improvements are being addressed as part of our current £15 million investment programme."

Minister told failure of garden city funding bid 'disappoints'

A BLACK Country enterprise strategist has written to the Government's housing chief expressing 'disappointment' that the region's garden city bid failed to get funding.

Stewart Towe, chairman of the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), has penned the letter to housing minister Gavin Barwell and it has been co-signed by the leaders of the area's four Black Country councils.

In the letter he says the bid would have enabled the development of 45,000 homes to be delivered sooner.

Mr Towe, who is also the managing director of the Smethwick-based Hadley Group, said: "We

were all disappointed to hear the announcement on January 2 of the selected New Garden Villages and Garden Towns, which did not include any villages or towns within the Black Country.

Ambitions

"The Black Country LEP, along with the four Black Country local authorities and the Homes and Communities Agency have been working to create a new 21st century Garden City in the centre of England, which, using brownfield land, will connect into existing communities and infrastructure.

"It is one of our ambitions and priority propositions to our Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). The Garden City will provide further develop-

ment of housing across the Black Country, with an additional 45,000 houses.

"A successful bid would have greatly assisted us to deliver this vision sooner."

Plans for the Black Country project, which spans over 31 different sites, were outlined in March, but the scheme was omitted from the Department for Communities and Local Government's funding announcement at the start of the year.

Bosses at the The Black Country Consortium, which is behind the project, said the decision was 'disappointing', but insisted that the scheme would go ahead. They said work was progressing and that development was not solely reliant on Government funding.

Museum aim to rescue building

BOSSES at the Black Country Living Museum face a race against time to save a historic gas showroom after council bosses submitted plans to demolish it.

Heritage chiefs want to to relocate the 1940s Gas Showroom in West Bromwich to their Dudley attraction as part of a £21 million project. But they have to act fast after a planning application was lodged by Sandwell Council to knock it down.

Laura Wakelin, director of communications at the Tipton Road museum, said: "I understand that it could be demolished in April. So we need to get the funding in place by then."

The gas showroom on the corner of Lombard Street West and High Street, along with neighbouring Parish's Restaurant, is envisaged to form part of a new 1940 to 60s town planned for the open-air museum, part of a £21 million project.

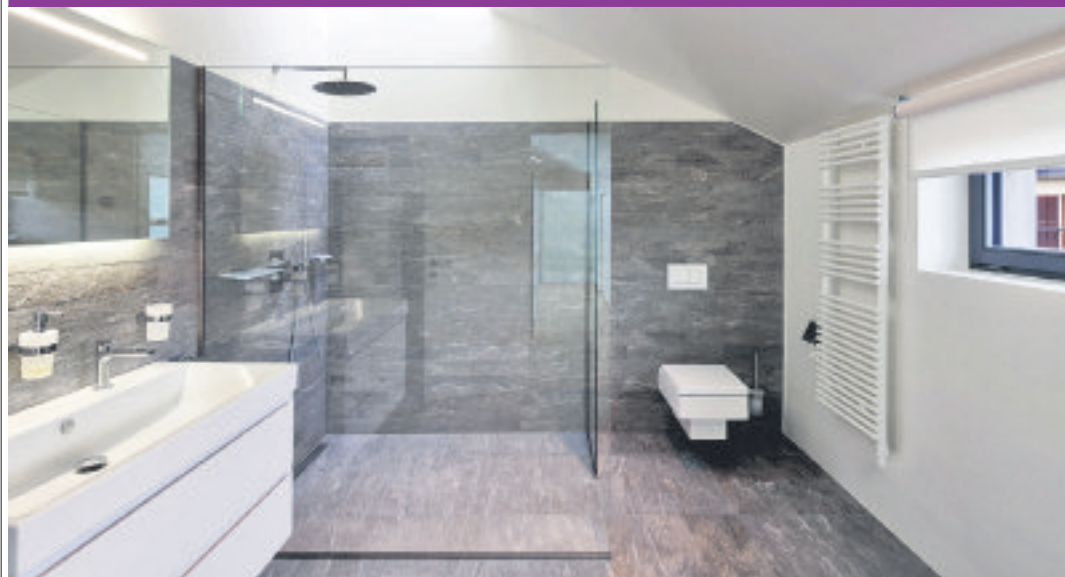
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Photos in exhibition

AN AMATEUR photographer who took a digital photography course with Dudley Adult Community Learning it to display his picture for the first time.

Terrence Alliband, 68, from Netherton, worked in the in circulation and distribution department at the Express & Star for 46 years.

He is to show his work at Artspace Dudley during February, from 7pm to 9.30pm. Mr Alliband will also be available to discuss his work. See www.artspacedudley.com website.



Dietician and British Dietetic Association spokesperson Aisling Pigott



Studies show consuming dairy may aid weight loss as calcium helps the body excrete fat

Banishing the demons over dairy in our diets

By Lisa Salmon

FULL-FAT milk and cheese aren't the foods you'd normally associate with weight loss – but they might not be as bad for your figure, or health, as you think.

For while they do contain saturated fat, dairy experts suggest that fats from milk may not be quite the dietary demons other saturated fats are thought to be.

“The term ‘full-fat’ sometimes gets confused with ‘full of fat’, and in fact, dairy isn’t full of fat at all,” stresses Dr Anne Mullen, head of nutrition at The Dairy Council.

“Whole milk, for example, isn’t classified as being a high-fat food. Dairy isn’t just fat; it contains a huge range of nutrients. Milk is high in calcium, B vitamins and iodine.

“So if you’re cutting out dairy in an effort to reduce calories or fat, you’re cutting out a whole range of really important nutrients.”

SHED THE POUNDS

A number of studies have found that consuming dairy, even the full-fat variety, may aid weight loss and reduce the risk of health conditions, including cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. Research into the effect of eating dairy is ongoing, but two of the notable preliminary findings so far involve the way dairy calcium increases the amount of fat the body excretes, and how unique dairy fatty acids may be associated with reduced disease risk.

CALCIUM & CALORIES

The calcium theory suggests that the more dairy calcium you include in your diet, the less fat will be absorbed by the digestive system, meaning that when you eat dairy products, their calories may not all count.

Danish scientist Professor Arne Astrup has found that if a person is fed a high cheese or milk diet, their faeces contain more fat than those of a person eating the same amount of calories whose diet doesn’t contain much dairy.

Astrup has said: “Dietary calcium has the potential to increase faecal fat excretion to an extent that could be relevant for prevention of weight gain.”

Mullen says the majority of studies show dairy consumption has no association, or a protective association, against body weight and body fatness.

DAIRY CALCIUM IS BEST

While calcium appears to be important in helping the body excrete more fat, another study suggests it’s not just calcium, but dairy calcium, that works best alongside a restricted calorie diet.

University of Tennessee research showed obese adults who ate a high-dairy, restricted calorie diet lost significantly more weight and fat than those who ate a low-dairy diet.

Those who ate the dairy-rich diet lost the most with an average of 24 pounds in 24 weeks, compared with 19 pounds in the group who took calcium supplements, and 15 pounds in the low-calcium/low-dairy group.

UNIQUE FATS

Another theory is that unique saturated



Studies suggest that people with high dairy intakes are less likely to suffer from strokes and type 2 diabetes



Milk is high in calcium, B vitamins and iodine – essential for health



Dr Anne Mullen, head of nutrition at The Dairy Council

fatty acids found in dairy can reduce the risk of certain serious diseases.

Research from Cambridge University found that the circulating dairy fat, margarine acid, significantly reduced the risk of cardiovascular disease.

In addition, a Medical Research Council study looked at nine different saturated fatty acids and the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, and found that while some fatty acids did increase diabetes risk, dairy fatty acids decreased the risk.

Lead scientist Dr Nita Forouhi said the study concurred with other research indi-

cating a protective effect against type 2 diabetes from eating yoghurt and other dairy products.

Studies also suggest that people with high dairy intakes are less likely to suffer strokes than those with little dairy in their diets. However, Dr Anne Mullen stresses that not enough research has been done to draw firm conclusions.

WHAT THE DIETICIAN SAYS

Dietician and British Dietetic Association spokesperson Aisling Pigott says that while full-fat dairy products are higher in fat and calories than their lower fat alter-

natives, the fat isn’t the only dairy constituent that should be considered. She warns: “We need to be very careful not to jump to conclusions. As studies reveal, use of low-fat products doesn’t automatically mean weight loss.”

Pigott points out that reducing fat can affect a product’s taste, and processed low-fat foods will often contain additional sugar. “A sudden drop of fat content in the diet may lead to dissatisfaction and increased portions,” she stresses.

“We need to move away from looking to demonise and glorify nutrients.”

Offal and insects are superfoods for 2017

OFFAL, insects and red algae are just some of the latest superfoods predicted to take 2017 by storm.

Online retailer Musclefood.com has compiled a list of 17 foods that are set to sweep the nation this year, ranging from the exotic kakadu plum to raw cacao nibs.

The list includes healthy natural alternatives to sugar, a new super fruit and the next nutritious pasta substitute. Less popular animal parts, often discarded as offal, also make the list with many having nutritional benefits and offering great value.

Many items will already be familiar to shoppers, such as tilapia, turmeric and macadamia nuts. Some of the lesser-known items on the list include pea protein, maca powder and goji berries which all contain high amounts of iron and important vitamins.

Darren Beale of Musclefood.com said: “Customers are becoming far more adventurous with their eating habits, and we’re expecting that trend to continue in 2017.”

“Offal may not sound appetising at first thought, but organ meats like calf liver and beef brain pack tonnes of important health benefits, so it’s great to see people are taking the plunge and trying new things.

“It’s really great to see that the stigma surrounding the consumption of insects is finally vanishing, as they’re a highly sustainable source of protein.

Last year the retailer made national headlines after highlighting black pudding as a potential new superfood.

Here are the site’s predictions for 2017:

1. Red Algae. Known affectionately as ‘bacon flavoured seaweed’.

2. Kakadu Plum. Also known as Gubinge, these tart, tangy fruits are a rich natural source of vitamin C and contain approximately 100 times more of the antioxidant than an orange.

3. Offal. Offal is a great source of vitamins, amino acids and omega-3 fatty acids. Offal such as beef and pork hearts, liver, brain, kidney and other organs are also packed full of iron and essential anti-oxidants. What’s more they are cheap too – ask any butcher and you’ll go home with a bag full of offal and still have change from a fiver.

4. Turmeric. Last year saw turmeric become an increasingly popular household spice, but it really looks set to explode in 2017 thanks to the healthy compound curcumin it contains.

5. Goji Berries. Also known as a ‘wolfberry’, Goji berries have been steadily growing in popularity in recent years. It contains a multitude of vitamins and minerals, such as iron and vitamin’s A, C and B2.

6. Bone Broth. Chances are you’ve seen this in supermarkets and been put off by the name, but bone broth actually has incredible flavour and contains essential minerals and protein.

7. Coconut Sugar. Coconut sugar offers more vitamins and minerals than white sugar, as well as added iron and zinc.

8. Insects. Insects rapidly became an important and sustainable food source towards the end of 2016. Just 100g of crickets contain 214 per cent more protein than 100g of chicken breast meat.

9. Pea Protein. As well as being both dairy and gluten free it is 100 per cent vegan friendly.

10. Black Bean Pasta. 2015 had courgette spaghetti. 2016 had soybean fettuccine, now 2017 looks set to be the year of the black bean pasta craze. Unlike standard spaghetti black bean pasta is high in protein and fibre.

11. Raw Cacao Nibs. Raw cacao nibs are great source of iron, fibre and magnesium, making them a great ingredient for desserts or just as a healthy snack.

12. Goat Meat. Goat meat typically contains more iron and less fat than beef, pork and lamb, and is already consumed across the globe.

13. Tilapia. Tilapia is associated with a number of health benefits, including boosting metabolism, building strong bones, preventing arthritis and reducing signs of aging.

14. Maca Powder. Maca powder is a great natural resource of vitamins, boasting large amounts vitamins B, C, and E as well as calcium, zinc and iron to name a few.

15. Buckwheat noodles. Buckwheat noodles contain no actual wheat and are the ideal replacement for any noodle-based dish.

16. Avocado Oil. Packed nutrients such as vitamin E that does wonders for your skin.

17. Macadamia Nuts. A terrific source of energy. They also contain large amounts of vitamin A and iron, as well as zinc and calcium.



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See Page 27



Bye Sabbath

One last hoorah for Ozzy
and the boys – Page 27

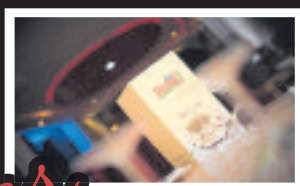


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NEC, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

ROCK & METAL

Grouper
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Jam House,
Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Oasis v The Stone Roses
Tonight, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177
or 07986 577 661

The Deep Purple Family Tree
Tonight, £12.50 - £14.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14.
Call 01902 401211

Kings Ov Leon + support
Tonight, £6 - £7
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Special Kinda Madness
Tomorrow, £8
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

G2 – Definitive Genesis
Tomorrow, £14 - £16
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14.
Call 01902 401211

Black Sabbath
Tomorrow,
Genting Arena, Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

John Otway & The Big Band
Tomorrow, £15
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 871580

Voodoo Vegas Live
Tomorrow - Sun,
Eleven, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 5PD.
Call 07845 957271

Karnataka
Sun, £14 - £15
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14.
Call 01902 401211

T.Rextasy
Sun, £20.50
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 871580

Classic Rock Show
Sun, £24.50 - £34.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Itchy Feet Birmingham
Tue,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

The Brew – Shake The Tree UK Tour
Wed,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton,
WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

CLASSICAL

Mark Bebbington (piano)
Tonight,
Bromsgrove Concerts,
B61 8LG.
Call 01527 836147

Montparnasse
Tomorrow,
MAC,
Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham,
B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Gospel central
Wed,
The Jam House,
Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Stourport Choral Society
Wed,
Areley Kings Village Hall,
Areley Common,
Stourport-on-Severn,
DY13 0NB.
Call 07939 318973

POP

ABBA Mania
Tonight,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham,
B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Donny Osmond
Tonight,
Genting Arena,
Birmingham,
B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

ABBA – Swede Dreamz
Tomorrow, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177
or 07986 577 661

Sunday Classics
Sun,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

You Win Again – The Story of the Bee Gees
Wed,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Sound Collective Presents: Union J + The Scheme + Ian Erix + Taken
Thu, £20
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, MOTOWN & REGGAE

Whitney
Tonight, £23
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Birmingham Salsa Party
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Lion Club, Birmingham,
B24 9AA.
Call 07961 514074

Jacqui Dankworth and Charlie Wood
Tomorrow,
Festival Drayton Centre,
Market Drayton, TF9 3AX.
Call 01630 654444

Soul Party Night with Sarah Collins and Keep The Faith
Tomorrow, £12
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Kenny Thomas
Thu, £40 - £50
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

FOLK, COUNTRY & ACOUSTIC

Traditional Irish Music
Mon,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Nathan Carter
Tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

George Monbiot & Ewan McLennan: The Age Of Loneliness
Wed,
MAC, Cannon Hill Park,
Birmingham, B12 9QH.
Call 0121 446 3232

Swing From The Gull! – Poetry Slam
Thu, £3
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

COMEDY

Sally-Anne Hayward, Freddie Farrell, Topping and Butch
Tonight - Sun, £15
Jongleurs Comedy Club,
Birmingham,
B1 2HG.
Call 08700 111 960

George Egg: Anarchist Cook
Tomorrow, £10 - £12
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 871580

Shazia Mirza: The Kardashians Made Me Do It
Tomorrow, £12 - £14
Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth,
WV16 4BD.
Call 01746 766477

The Tommy Cooper Show
Tomorrow, £14
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

THEATRE

Evita
Tonight - tomorrow,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

What's In A Name?
Tonight - Thu
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Dial M for Murder
Tonight - Thu
Hall Green Little Theatre,
Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

The Russian State Ballet Of Siberia – Coppelia
Tue,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Beyond The Barricade
Tomorrow, £19.50 - £21.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Recorded at the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow Bolshoi: Swan Lake
Sun, £10 - £16
Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore, WR10 1BG.
Call 01386 555028

St Petersburg Ballet Theatre presents Swan Lake
Sun - Mon,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

The Russian State Ballet Of Siberia – Swan lake
Mon,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Wonderland
Mon - Thu,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Red Shoes
Tue - Thu,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

ARTS & CULTURE

Stitch Social
Today,
Creative Coffee Hub, Birmingham, B29 6HJ.
Call 01215 727300

Uncial Calligraphy
Tomorrow,
Winterbourne House and Garden,
Birmingham, B15 2RT.
Call 0121 414 3003

The 4 Elements photography exhibition
Tomorrow - Wed,
B1, Birmingham, B1 3RB.
See www.thephotographicangle.co.uk

Nobuko Imai Interactive Workshop
Sun,
Birmingham Conservatoire,
Birmingham City University,
B3 3HG. Call 0121 331 5901

Cinematic Time Machine: 42nd Street
Sun,
The Electric Cinema,
Birmingham, B5 4DY.
Call 0121 643 7879

Somewhere Never Travelled – Annette Pugh Solo Exhibition
Mon - Thu,
Reuben Colley Fine Art,
Birmingham, B3 2BB.
Call 0121 236 0920

Number 8 Readers' Group
Tue,
Number 8 Community Arts Centre, Pershore, WR10 1BG.
Call 01386 555028

Tales from the Museum Basement with Garston Phillips
Tue,
Worcester City Art Gallery,
WR1 1DT. Call 01905 25371

Solihull Photographic Society – AV Competition
Tue,
Solihull Women's Institute,
B91 3DQ. Call 07815 165438

Draw the Gardens – a botanical quest
Wed,
Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens,
Birmingham, B36 9BT.
Call 0121 749 4100

MISC. EVENTS

Superslam Wrestling
Tonight,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Bilston Collectors Fair
Sun, £1 - £3
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14.
Call 01902 401211

To Advertise here please call
Daniel Eccles on **01384 353 227**
Express & Star

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

It's end for Sabbath – but not for Ozzy

IT STARTED nearly five decades ago with a crack of thunder, a distant bell ringing and then a monstrous riff that shook the earth.

In that moment Heavy Metal was born, created by a young band from Birmingham.

And now it's come full circle, drawing to an end with the final eight shows ever by Black Sabbath. Ozzy Osbourne, Tony Iommi and Geezer Butler are returning home to close the final chapter in the final volume of the incredible Black Sabbath story.

Sabbath's farewell tour, The End, is currently wowing fans all over Europe, surpassing all previous tours with their most mesmerising production ever.

Arena

It will culminate in two nights in their home town at the Genting Arena, Birmingham, with gigs last night (Thursday) and the big finale on Saturday.

And when the tour concludes, it will truly be The End – of one of the most legendary bands in rock 'n' roll history.

Singer Ozzy is aware of the band's mortality. Following a short period that took away Lemmy, David Bowie, Prince and others, he's aware that all things must end.

"Lemmy, man," he says. "That broke my heart. If someone was to say to me, 'what's your depiction of the heavy metal star?', I'd say Lemmy Kilmister."

Ozzy has had more than his fair share of brushes with the Grim Reaper. He's been down but not out. "Oh, f***ing hell have I. Just ask my family. I've nearly died loads. I've had several stomach pumps, my heart stopped twice



Playing Brum together for the last time, Geezer Butler, Ozzy Osbourne, Tony Iommi

when I broke my neck on a quad bike. Every time I got stoned and drunk, I didn't get tipsy I got mashed.

"I haven't drunk for three years, I haven't smoked for 12 years, I don't do drugs any time. It's cool."

The band no longer features founding drummer Bill Ward, who left the fold in 2012 after a contract dispute. Ozzy, Tony and Geezer thundered on, releasing 13 in 2013, and embarking on a world tour.

They decided not to do a final album because

they didn't want it to fall short of the number 1 they achieved with 13.

But despite this being the band's final tour, Ozzy won't be retiring. "I'm not going to stop entirely," he says. "I'm not going to sit with my slippers on. We're just going to go in different directions."

"Black Sabbath, it's been up and down. And it's good that we've come back together at the end, more or less, to finish on a high note. It's a good way to do it."



Sell-out likely for Red Shoes

ACCLAIMED choreographer Matthew Bourne brings his New Adventures dance company to Birmingham Hippodrome from Tuesday to Saturday as part of his world premiere tour of The Red Shoes.

Bourne's take on one of the most famous movies made about ballet has been so eagerly anticipated that it is likely to sell out its run in Brum and has already been booked to return between July 19 and 22.

And that's no surprise given the way Bourne has invigorated the ballet scene with such productions as his radical male-orientated revamp of Swan Lake, the passionate Car Man, spectacular Edward Scissorhands and romantic vampire-style Sleeping Beauty.

Created

The role of Victoria Page, the girl who dreams of being a great dancer, immortalised on screen by Moira Shearer, has been created by New Adventures star Ashley Shaw (pictured left), who was most recently seen as Aurora in Bourne's Sleeping Beauty. Rising star and fellow Aurora, Cordelia Braithwaite, also plays the role along with Sleeping Beauty favourite Katrina Lyndon in her principal role debut at certain performances.

For tickets see www.birminghamhippodrome.com or call 0844 338 5000. Ballet is also on the agenda at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre where the Russian State Ballet of Siberia make their annual visit from Sunday to Tuesday.

This year's repertoire is The Nutcracker on Sunday (4pm), Swan Lake on Monday (7.30) and Coppelia on Tuesday (7.30).

See the website www.grandtheatre.co.uk or call 01902 429212.

Transatlantic folk unite for Brum gig

SHETLAND fiddler Aly Bain and US dobro master Jerry Douglas are joined by John Paul White, Tift Merritt, Dick Powell, Jim Lauderdale and ex-Fairground Attraction singer Eddi Reader for Transatlantic Sessions at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Thursday (Feb 9).

St Leonard's Horses (AKA Kieran Leonard) blends folk, country and rock at the Sunflower Lounge in Brum city centre this Saturday.

Guardian journalist George Monbiot and folk singer Ewan McLennan, who collaborated on album Breaking The Spell Of Loneliness, are at the MAC, in Cannon Hill Park, Edgbaston on Wednesday.

Wonders are full of melodic power pop

PENNSYLVANIA pop-punk outfit The Wonder Years follow up fifth album No Closer To Heaven with a gig at the O2 Institute tomorrow (Friday) with support from PUP and Tiny Moving Parts.

Howie Payne, from Liverpool group The Stands, is at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Tuesday.

X Factor boy band Union J play Brum's O2 Academy 2 on Wednesday featuring new member Casey Johnson from Stereo Kicks.

London guitar slingers Inheaven bring their wall of sound to Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms next Thursday (Feb 9) with Freak supporting.

Anthrax are back among the living

IT'S a good week ahead for rock fans. As well as the Black Sabbath gigs at the Genting Arena (see above), New York thrash metal monsters Anthrax are back in Blighty for a series of gigs, including Birmingham's O2 Institute next Thursday, February 9.

The powerhouse five-piece fronted by Joey Belladonna will be blasting Digbeth with fans' favourite album, Among The Living, plus latest record For All Kings. Support from London's The Raven Age.

If you prefer your raw rock vintage style, rockabilly combo The Deadshots are at the Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, on Sunday.

Short Breaks & Holidays

from only **£55!**

Enjoy Britain

From seaside favourites to city delights....

Liverpool Spectacular

2 DAYS

Sun 26 Feb	£79	Beatles	Sun 26 Mar	£79	Queen
Sun 5 Mar	£79	Elvis	Sun 16 Apr	£79	Beatles
Sun 12 Mar	£79	Rod Stewart			

- Coach travel with reserved seating throughout
- One night dinner, bed & breakfast at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool
- '2 for 1' evening bar for three hours
- Inclusive Disco
- Sensational tribute act
- Free time to enjoy the city delights of Liverpool

2 DAY BREAKS IN BRITAIN

Sat 18 Feb	Emmerdale Studio Experience	£99
Sat 25 Feb	Skipton Market, Haworth & Emmerdale	£59
Sat 4 Mar	Chesterfield Market & York	£55
Sat 4 Mar	Torquay & Exeter	£59
Sat 4 Mar	Eastbourne & Brighton	£59
Sat 11 Mar	Beautiful Windermere & Skipton Market	£69
Sat 11 Mar	Norwich, Yarmouth & The Broads	£59
Sat 11 Mar	Tower of London & Canterbury	£99
Sat 11 Mar	Canterbury & Riverside London	£79
Sat 18 Mar	Durham & Whitby Luxury Weekend	£69
Sat 18 Mar	Beamish & Whitby	£89
Sat 18 Mar	Historic Chester & Liverpool	£69
Sat 18 Mar	Torquay & Bath	£59
Sat 25 Mar	Cheshire Oaks & Trafford Centre	£59

Explore Europe

Explore the best of Europe....

4/5/7/14 DAY EUROPEAN BREAKS

Fri 10 Feb	4 Ostend Weekend Superdeal	£119
Fri 10 Feb	4 Paris Weekend Superdeal	£149
Fri 10 Feb	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The Kyriad	£279
Fri 10 Feb	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The B&B Hotel	£269
Fri 10 Feb	7 Venice Carnival Spectacular (2 evening meals)	£299
Mon 13 Feb	4 Ostend Special Breakaway	£129
Mon 13 Feb	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The Kyriad	£299
Mon 13 Feb	4 Disneyland Spectacular at Dream Castle	£339
Mon 13 Feb	4 Disneyland Spectacular at The B&B Hotel	£279
Mon 13 Feb	5 Ostend All Inclusive	£219
Mon 13 Feb	5 Rhine Valley Superdeal	£169
Mon 13 Feb	4 Rhine & Moselle All Inclusive	£199
Fri 17 Feb	4 Ostend Weekend Superdeal	£129
Fri 17 Feb	7 Venice Carnival Spectacular (2 evening meals)	£319

Austrian Winter Wonderland

7 DAYS

Sun 19 Feb £459

- Coach travel with reserved seating
- Four nights dinner, bed & buffet breakfast plus overnight b&b on outwards & return journeys
- Four nights included bar between 6pm-10pm with a choice of beers, wines and soft drinks at our resort hotel
- Guided tours of Vipitino & Innsbruck
- Horse drawn sleigh ride
- Journey on the Murrellarm Mountain Railway with inclusive lunch

SHOWTIME

With inclusive admission to top shows & acts in 2017!

Llandudno Grand & Anton & Erin

5 DAYS

Mon 20 March £209

- Coach travel with reserved seating
- Four nights dinner, bed & breakfast at the popular Grand Hotel, Llandudno
- Sparkling nightly cabaret entertainment
- Excursions featuring Snowdonia, Caernarfon & Bets-y-Coed
- Admission to Anton & Erin - Live at the Venue Cymru, Llandudno.

2 DAY SHOWTIME BREAKS

Sat 18 Feb	Blood Brothers & Liverpool Special	£99
Sat 4 Mar	Sunny Afternoon & Historic York	£119
Sat 4 Mar	London & Star Wars Identities at the O2	£99
Sat 4 Mar	Dreamboats and Petticoats - Live in Manchester	£99
Sat 11 Mar	The X Factor Live Tour! & Leeds	£119
Sat 11 Mar	Beautiful - The Carole King Musical - London Showtime	£139
Sat 11 Mar	The Lion King - London Showtime	£149
Sat 11 Mar	Funny Girl - Live in Liverpool	£119
Thu 16 Mar	Frankly Sinatra Live in Concert	£99
Thu 16 Mar	Ollie Murs - Live in Liverpool	£139
Fri 17 Mar	The Magic of Motown & Liverpool	£99
Sat 18 Mar	The Full Monty & Historic York	£99
Sat 25 Mar	Disney On Ice & The Wildlife Park	£119
Sat 25 Mar	Jersey Boys - London Showtime	£139
Sat 25 Mar	Wicked - London Showtime	£139

Special Events

Enjoy admission to sensational Special Events.

2 DAY SPECIAL EVENTS BREAKS

Sat 25 Mar	Manchester Bike Show & Liverpool	£89
Sat 1 Apr	Victoria at Harewood House	£89
Mon 3 Apr	Flying Scotsman Special	£119
Sat 15 Apr	London & The Tall Ships Regatta Easter Special	£119
Sat 22 Apr	Skipton Market & Harrogate Flower Show	£99
Sat 22 Apr	Cotswolds Wartime 1940's Special	£89
Tue 25 Apr	Gino's Italian Escape - Live!	£99
Sat 6 May	The London Motor Show	£99
Sat 13 May	Hobbycrafts, Stitch & Sew - Live!	£79
Sat 13 May	Abingdon Airshow & Historic Bath	£99
Sat 27 May	Chelsea Flower Show	£169
Sat 10 Jun	Ideal Home Show & Liverpool	£79
Sat 24 Jun	Victoria at Harewood House	£89
Sat 24 Jun	Harlow Carr Flower Show	£99

The Grand National

2 DAYS

Sat 8 April £119

- Coach travel with reserved seating
- One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel
- Inclusive admission to the Steeplechase Enclosure for the Grand National
- Visit to Liverpool.

Family Fun

Great breaks for all the family!

London & Harry Potter Studios Tour

2 DAYS

Sat 18 Feb	£119	Sat 15 Apr	£119
Sat 25 Mar	£119	Sat 20 May	£119
Thu 6 Apr	£119	Sat 10 Jun	£119
Thu 13 Apr	£119	Sat 15 Jul	£129

- Coach travel with reserved seating
- One night dinner, bed & breakfast at our select hotel
- Free time to enjoy the attractions and delights of London
- Inclusive admission to the Harry Potter Studios Tour at Warner Bros Studios.

2 DAY FAMILY FUN BREAKS

Sat 18 Mar	Legoland Spectacular	£99
Sat 15 Apr	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 15 Apr	Legoland Spectacular	£119
Sat 22 Apr	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 29 Apr	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 20 May	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 27 May	Legoland Spectacular	£119
Sat 27 May	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 3 Jun	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 17 Jun	Polar Bears, Penguins & Kingdom of Ice	£99
Sat 24 Jun	Legoland Spectacular	£119
Sat 24 Jun	Longleat Safari Park, Jungle Cruise & Windsor	£99
Sat 1 Jul	Legoland Discovery & Blackpool Funtime	£89
Sat 22 Jul	Legoland Spectacular	£119

To book go to **nationalholidays.com**

formerly Travelstyle

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PLUS!!! MANY MORE breaks available...

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

CHOICE



Taboo (BBC1, 9.15pm)
A duel at dawn takes a surprising turn, as mercurial adventurer and would-be international business magnate James Delaney is blackmailed into a dangerous mission, one which takes the form of a deadly race against time. Meanwhile, Delaney's malevolent brother-in-law Thorne pushes his seething jealousy into a vicious and spiritual realm, and as the threat of an embarrassing loss to the colonial upstarts in the Americas rises, the animosity between the Crown and the East India Company escalates to new heights. Historical drama, starring Tom Hardy and Jefferson Hall.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 The Best Dishes Ever. (R) **12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Six Nations Preview. 2.00 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Scotland v Ireland (Kick-off 2.25pm). 4.30 Final Score. 5.30 BBC News. 5.40 Regional Programme. 5.50 Pointless Celebrities.** (R)
6.40 Let It Shine. The talent contest changes tack, as Mel Giedroyc and Graham Norton introduce the next stage of the selection process. This week, the would-be pop stars get a taste of performing in groups for the first time, and Lulu takes up Amber Riley's former position on the judging panel. The theme for this round is "collaboration", with each group of boys teaming up with either Olly Murs, Kaiser Chiefs, Melanie C, Bustard or Beverley Knight to perform three-song mega-sets in their new ensembles. After each performance, judges Dannii Minogue, Lulu, Martin Kemp and Gary Barlow must select five leads from each group to form the bands for next week's live round.
8.25 Casualty. The morning of Charlie's wedding arrives, and Cal and Ethan wake hung-over following a riotous the stag party. However, the pair have no memory of the previous night's events, Charlie is missing, and Cal seems to have acquired a mysterious suitcase, which is cuffed to his wrist. Retracing their steps takes them back to a B&B, a tattoo parlour and a strip club, leading to a deadly encounter with a criminal intent on reclaiming the suitcase. Meanwhile, Duffy worries that her groom has developed cold feet, Iain receives a visiting order from Gem, and Ellie learns a second complaint has been made against her.
9.15 Taboo. James Delaney is blackmailed into accepting a deadly mission.
10.15 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, which included Chelsea v Arsenal at Stamford Bridge.
12.00 The NFL Show. 12.35 Film: Disconnect. (2012) 2.25 Weather for the Week Ahead. 2.30 BBC News.

BBC2

6.50 Film: Lady Luck. (1946) 8.25 Film: School for Scoundrels. (1960) 10.00 Britain's Secret Seas. (R) 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 12.00 A Cook Abroad: Dave Myers' Egypt. (R) 1.00 Film: The Importance of Being Earnest. (2002) Oscar Wilde comedy, starring Rupert Everett and Colin Firth. 2.30 Natural World. (R) 3.30 The World's Most Extraordinary Homes. (R) 4.30 Mastermind. (R) 5.30 Only Connect. (R) 6.00 **Live Davis Cup Tennis. Canada v Great Britain. Sue Barker introduces coverage of the doubles rubber on day two of the World Group first-round tie at The Arena at TD Place, Ottawa. Much of Britain's recent success in the competition has been down to their results in doubles ties, with Andy and Jamie Murray the favoured partnership, although Andy is missing from the British squad on this occasion. With commentary by Chris Bradnam, Jamie Baker and John Lloyd.
8.30 Dad's Army. A major decides Corporal Jones is too old to be in the Home Guard, asking him to prove his worth by completing an assault course. Comedy, starring Clive Dunn. (R)
9.00 QI XL. Guests Lucy Porter, Frankie Boyle and Ross Noble join regular panellist Alan Davies and host Sandi Toksvig to contemplate the theme "next" in this extended episode. As usual, correctness and even intelligence go out of the window in this quiz, in which the questions are so difficult points are awarded for the answers its questionmaster finds most interesting.
9.45 Film: The Falling. (2014) Premiere. A 1960s girls' school is rocked by the sudden death of a star pupil. Soon afterwards, the students suffer an outbreak of mass hysteria, and begin inexplicably fainting. The close friendship between two very different girls seems to lie at the centre of the strange happenings. Drama, starring Maisie Williams.
11.25 Film: Julie & Julia. (2009) Biopic telling the stories of 1960s American chef Julia Child and modern-day blogger Julie Powell, who tries to emulate her heroine in the kitchen. With Meryl Streep.
1.20 Film: In Darkness. (2011) **3.35 This is BBC Two.****

ITV

**6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.45 Sooty. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Super 4. (R) 7.15 Oddbods. (R) 7.20 Oddbods. (R) 7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! (R) 8.30 Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. 9.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Rebound. (R) 10.25 Guess This House. (R) 11.25 Judge Rinder. (R) 12.30 ITV News; Weather. 12.40 River Monsters. (R) 1.10 Tipping Point. (R) 2.15 Dance Dance Dance. (R) 3.45 Regional Programme - Weather 3.55 ITV News; Weather. 4.10 Live Six Nations Rugby Union. England v France (Kick-off 4.50pm).
7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.
8.00 The Voice UK. The spinning-chair singing contest's Blind Audition phase continues into its fifth week, as coaches Will.i.am, Jennifer Hudson, Tom Jones and Gavin Rossdale hunt for the nation's next singing superstar. As ever, the auditionees are invited to perform on stage, while the all-star panellists sit with their backs to the singer, only turning their chair around to see who they have just been serenaded by if they are suitably impressed by the performer. Naturally, as the contest continues to roll on, remaining spaces on each coach's teams are running short, and competition to claim the left-over spots will be as fierce as ever.
9.30 Through the Keyhole. Cold Feet actor John Thomson, Coronation Street star Kym Marsh and presenter Stephen Mulhern try to guess which three stars' homes Keith Lemon has invaded.
10.30 ITV News; Weather.
10.45 Film: The Bourne Supremacy. (2004) The amnesiac assassin is framed for a botched CIA operation and faces a fight for survival as he tries to uncover his past. Action thriller sequel, with Matt Damon and Brian Cox.
12.40 Jackpot247. 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.20 The King of Queens. (R) 6.45 The King of Queens. (R) 7.10 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.25 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.50 The Simpsons. (R) 11.20 The Simpsons. (R) 11.50 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) 12.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 1.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 2.25 Come Dine with Me. (R) 2.55 Come Dine with Me. (R) 3.25 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. (R) 4.30 Location, Location, Location. (R) 5.30 Grand Designs. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages. Penelope visits North Yorkshire, England's largest county, where she samples local dialect in the remote villages of Upper Swaledale. She also takes in the sights of Cracoe, the village featured in the film Calendar Girls, and heads for the North York Moors and Goathland, where she witnesses a Viking sword dance. Plus, a trip to the failed seaside resort of Ravenscar, and a tour of an artists' retreat in Staithes. (R)
8.00 Great Canal Journeys. Timothy West and Prunella Scales embark on a journey into their pasts via the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, which celebrates its 200th anniversary this year. Along the way, they visit the country's last surviving steam-powered textile mill, mender through the 'curlies', and meet acclaimed poet Simon Armitage. They also take a trip by steam train to the home of the Bronte sisters in Haworth, and are confronted by the Salts Mill after tackling the steepest lock staircase in Britain. Last in the series. (R)
9.00 Film: A Million Ways to Die in the West. (2014) Premiere. A timid farmer abandoned by his girlfriend is fascinated by a mysterious woman who rides into his frontier town. He tries to act the part of a gunslinging Wild West hero to impress her, only to find himself facing a showdown with her notorious outlaw husband. Western spoof, directed by and starring Seth MacFarlane.
11.15 Film: Van Helsing. (2004)
1.40 The Last Leg. (R) 2.35 Hollyoaks. 4.45 Win It Cook It. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) 10.30 Film: Kelly's Heroes. (1970) 1.10 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.10 Police Interceptors. (R) 3.10 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 4.10 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) 5.10 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R)
6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. Documentary giving an insight into the world of debt collection from the perspectives of debtors, creditors and those who collect the payments. Repossession experts Mike Allonby and Terry Jones roam the streets, looking for cars belonging to people with outstanding unpaid loans, while high court enforcement officers Paul Bohill and Steve Pinner evict a taxi driver from his home of 19 years for a debt of almost £30,000. (R)
7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. The team investigates when a naval seaman and an infamous arms dealer are found dead near the Mexican border.
8.00 NCIS. Abby visits a pharmaceutical lab to investigate a murder case, but when armed men storm the facility and hold everyone hostage, she finds herself trapped within the building.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce action from the latest fixtures, which included Bristol City v Rotherham United at Ashton Gate, Ipswich Town v Reading at Portman Road, and Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa at The City Ground.
10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the latest matches in Leagues One and Two, including Shrewsbury Town v Bury, and Cambridge United v Plymouth Argyle.
10.30 Britain's Biggest Armed Robbery. The Brinks Mat heist of 1983, the country's biggest and most notorious armed robbery, which caused the price of gold to soar and sent ripples through the criminal underworld.
11.30 Police Interceptors: Takedown. Vinnie Jones joins up with officers from two forces. (R)
12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. (R)**

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Timeshift: Magnificent Machines – The Golden Age of the British Sports Car
8.00 Treasures of the Indus
9.00 Attenborough and the Giant Egg
10.00 The Young Montalbano
11.45 Top of the Pops: 1983
12.50 Robert Plant @ Glastonbury
2.00 The Rolling Stones at the BBC
2.45 Jeff Lynne's ELO in Concert
3.50 Close
ITV2
11.20 Ninja Warrior UK
12.20 Take Me Out
1.25 You've Been Framed! Gold
1.50 Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008)
2.50 FYI Daily
2.55 Film: Step Up 2: The Streets (2008)
3.55 Film: Inspector Gadget (1999)
4.55 FYI Daily
5.00 Film: Inspector Gadget (1999)
5.30 Film: Snow Dogs (2002)
6.30 FYI Daily
6.35 Film: Snow Dogs (2002)
7.15 Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)
8.35 FYI Daily
8.40 Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)
11.00 Family Guy
12.30 American Dad!
12.55 Film: Run Fat Boy Run (2007)
1.55 FYI Daily
2.05 Film: Run Fat Boy Run (2007)
2.45 Teleshopping
5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.00 Film: Carry On Jack (1963)
12.45 Lewis
2.50 Wycliffe
4.00 Agatha Christie's Marple
6.00 Midsomer Murders
8.00 Doc Martin
9.00 Midsomer Murders
11.00 Lewis
1.00 Blue Murder
2.00 ITV3 Nightscreen
2.30 Teleshopping
ITVA
11.00 Counting Cars
11.50 Pawn Stars
1.15 Barcelona's European Glory
1.30 ITV Racing Live from Sandown
4.00 Film: Superman (1978)
5.00 FYI Daily
5.05 Film: Superman (1978)
6.55 Mr Bean
8.00 River Monsters
9.05 Film: Bullitt (1968)
10.05 FYI Daily
10.10 Film: Bullitt (1968)
11.25 Film: Game of Death (2010)
12.25 FYI Daily
12.30 Film: Game of Death (2010)
1.30 Hell on Wheels
2.25 Tommy Cooper
2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen
3.00 Teleshopping
E4
3.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
4.00 The Big Bang Theory
8.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD
9.00 Film: X-Men (2000)
11.00 Gogglebox
12.40 The Inbetweeners
1.50 Chewing Gum
2.25 Virtually Famous
3.05 The Inbetweeners
4.00 Rude Tube
Film4
11.00 Millions (2004)
1.00 Carry On Nurse (1959)
2.45 The Borrowers (1997)
4.25 Von Ryan's Express (1965)
6.45 Tower Heist (2011)
9.00 A Good Day to Die Hard (2013)
12.45 Resident Evil: Extinction (2007)
12.45 District 9 (2009)
3.00 Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

The Bucket List, Channel 5, 10.30pm

Two terminally ill cancer patients, one a wealthy tycoon, the other a penniless mechanic, resolve to enjoy the time they have left to live life to the full. While in hospital, the pair draw up a list of all the things they have always wanted to do but never found the time, before embarking on a mission to try them all. Comedy, starring Jack Nicholson. (2007)

TUESDAY

Killer Assistant, Channel 5, 3.20pm

A high-profile magazine editor seemingly has the perfect life and career. However, when she takes on a new assistant, a brief affair and his clandestine plotting threatens to send the woman into a downward spiral of life-changing proportions. Thriller, starring Arianne Zucker and Brando Eaton. (2016)

WEDNESDAY

Someone to Watch Over Me, BBC1, 11.45pm

A New York socialite witnesses a club owner's murder at the hands of a powerful mobster, prompting the police to assign a detective to protect her. However, when the married cop begins to fall for his glamorous charge, he faces a conflict of loyalties. Ridley Scott's romantic thriller, starring Tom Berenger. (1987)



Blood Diamond, Friday, BBC1, 11.55pm

THURSDAY

The Vanished Family: Aurora Teagarden Mystery 4, Channel 5, 3.15pm

After an exhaustive house-hunt, crime-solving librarian Aurora finally purchases her dream home. However, as she sets about moving in, she discovers the property has a murky history, one involving the sudden disappearance of previous owners. Mystery drama, starring Candace Cameron Bure. (2016)

FRIDAY

Blood Diamond, BBC1, 11.55pm

Smuggler Danny Archer ends up in prison in war-torn Sierra Leone in 1999, where he meets Solomon, a Mende fisherman separated from his family by guerrillas. Danny pledges to help the desperate man rescue his son, who has been forcibly conscripted as a child soldier, in return for a rare pink diamond. Action thriller, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. (2006)

Famous faces face a test on the waters

Oh to have been a fly on the wall during the meeting to set up this show....

You can imagine it – blown over by the success of Channel 4's Great Canal Journeys featuring married thespians Timothy West and Prunella Scales, not to mention ITV's Barging Round Britain with John Sergeant, those folks at Channel 5 decided they needed to get a piece of the pensionable boat trip action.

Well, you would, wouldn't you?

And if something ain't broke, there's no need to fix it, so the station decided not to tinker with the format too much. As a result they have brought in four famous faces and sent them on their way for an adventure. Hopefully anyway – otherwise it's going to be a slightly dull four-part series.

First into the fray are Debbie McGee and Nigel Havers. She's best known for being the widow of Paul Daniels, and found fame initially as his glamorous assistant (her name tended to be prefaced by the word 'lovely' back in their 1980s heyday);

these days she's a star in her own right.

Havers is, of course, that dashing actor who has graced the screen in a number of acclaimed projects, including Chariots of Fire, A Passage to India and Empire of the Sun. He even added a little bit of class to Coronation Street as charming schemer Lewis Archer.

McGee and Havers both have experience of steering boats, so should find their trip a doddle. Unfortunately, that proves to be far from the case...

Their novice neighbours, Lorraine Chase and Simon Callow, struggle too. Chase spent four years as an Emmerdale regular thanks to her role as Steph Forsythe, but is still best known for a string of adverts she made in the 1970s which used her strong cockney accent to their full.

Callow is, of course, an actor of some note, having appeared in numerous acclaimed stage roles, from Shakespeare to Beckett and beyond. He also made a big impact in Four Weddings and a Funeral, and

has numerous other film roles to his name. However, he isn't above more lowbrow pursuits – his first TV role was in the Carry On Laughing episode Orgy and Bess, although his part was eventually cut from the finished product.

The opening episode sees the quartet embark on their journey along the Kennet and Avon Canal, one of Britain's most popular waterways. They begin in Bristol, but soon end up in trouble thanks to an altercation with a moored boat.

Debbie tries to raise everyone's spirits by making them taste the fruits of her labours in the galley. However, it's the addition of some alcohol that really gets the party started.

Later, the group encounter a local artist, whose gift of a map opens up a world of canal-side entertainment, and inspires them to visit local vineyards (more booze) and call in on the Avondlife singers.

Later episodes will feature a trip down the Llangollen Canal on the border between England and Wales.



Celebrity Carry on Barging, Friday, Channel 5, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

SAS: Rogue Warriors

BBC2, 9pm

New series. Ben Macintyre uses the SAS archives to examine the history of the British Army special forces unit combining documents, unseen footage and interviews with its founding members to tell the remarkable story behind an extraordinary fighting force. In the first edition, he looks at its formation in the heat of the north African desert in 1941, when eccentric young British army officer David Archibald Stirling had a vision for a new kind of war in which the enemy was attacked from behind their own lines.

TUESDAY

The Moorside

BBC1, 9pm

Drama telling the story of the disappearance of nine-year-old Shannon Matthews from the Moorside Estate in Dewsbury. Emotional public appeals for information from her mother Karen Matthews amount to nothing, and the community, led by Julie Bushby, stand by her and make extraordinary efforts of their own to find Shannon. Despite the support, doubts are beginning to creep in for some regarding Karen's behaviour, and friend and neighbour Natalie Brown struggles with her conscience as she becomes convinced that Karen

knows more than she is revealing. Sheridan Smith, Sian Brooke and Gemma Whelan star.

WEDNESDAY

Climbing the Property Ladder

Channel 5, 9pm

With property shows being a firm fixture on telly schedules for years now, it's hardly surprising that more and more people are deciding to turn their hands to the risky - but often rewarding - world of property development. What is a surprise is the range of people whom this lifestyle attracts. This new series follows those attempting to buy, renovate, and sell houses for profit, including everyone from retirees to youngsters, and single mums to office workers. They include Mary, who was recently laid off and has decided to put her redundancy money and life savings into a run-down Yorkshire cottage. She has her eyes on a healthy £25,000 profit, however her project is at risk of turning into a battle of wills with her builder.

No Offence

Channel 4, 9pm

After finding herself suspended

from duty, Deering goes rogue in her efforts to nail Nora. Back at the station, Lickberg tries to control the team, as they urgently intensify the manhunt for one of the Attahs' missing victims. Teegan is sent on an undercover operation and an unlikely alliance is agreed between Nora and the team, who wants

to stop a Female Genital Mutilation cutter arriving on her patch. Starring Joanna Scanlan, Rakie Ayola, Sarah Solemani and Saira Choudhry.

THURSDAY

After Brexit: The Battle for

Europe

BBC2, 9pm

In the wake of last year's referendum result, Britons on both sides of the Brexit debate have been discussing what leaving the European Union will mean for the UK. However, this documentary looks at the implications for the future of EU itself, which is



The Moorside, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

currently facing the biggest challenge in its 60-year history. As the BBC's Europe Editor Katya Adler points out, it's not just Britain's departure that is making waves – populist eurosceptic movements are on the rise across the continent, leading to the prospect of more countries following the UK's example and voting to leave. As Britain begins the controversial and uncertain process of withdrawing, Adler asks whether the Union can survive.

FRIDAY

Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast

Channel 4, 8pm

You might think that good friends and good food combine to make a relaxing Friday night, and usually you'd be right. This edition of old pals Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty's culinary series, however, may prove to be contentious – for Jamie is attempting a paella, the very dish which last year saw the chef draw ire on social media from seemingly the entire population of Spain. His inclusion of chorizo proved particularly controversial, so it will be interesting to see whether the spicy sausage makes it into tonight's recipe. He's cooking the the Valencian staple with actor Martin Clunes, but will they defer to the dish's progenitors, or throw caution to the wind and end up as 'men behaving badly'?

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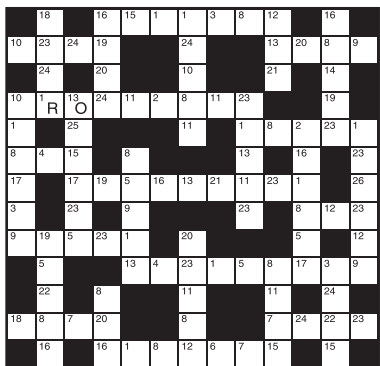
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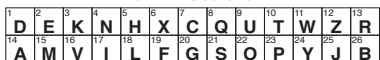
BRAIN GYM No.414

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



1	R	14
2		15
3		16
4		17
5		18
6		19
7		20
8		21
9		22
10		23
11		24
12		25
13	O	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

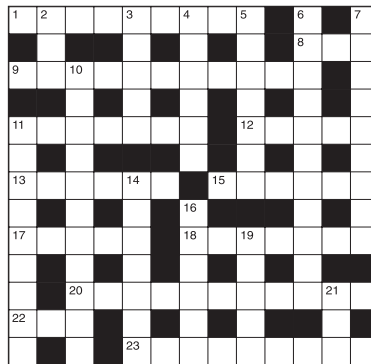
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Great help, perhaps, in rapid communication (9)
- Eggs swallowed by Croesus (3)
- New baby for a publisher? (6,5)
- Army unit is also included in the plan (7)
- Knowing there's a conflict with the East (5)
- Journey to the game (6)
- A time in which love and pride are mingled (6)
- We hear forty of the Romans do better (5)
- A noted soporific (7)
- It swims with the current! (8,3)
- Listener among the corn (3)
- Segregate something that may be present (6,3)

Down

- Are in the ascendant for a while (3)
- Enjoyment shown in getting us together (5)
- Foreigners from an isle (6)
- As he got found out he was taken prisoner (7)
- Take evasive action, in a manner of speaking (11)
- This time tomorrow! (9)
- Merchants who have gone to pot? (11)
- Mad, being had (9)
- Take a job over to break the monotony (7)
- Pastel composition used in the dining room (6)
- French flower I have knowledge about (5)
- Work discovered in the study of ergonomics (3)



Quick Clues:

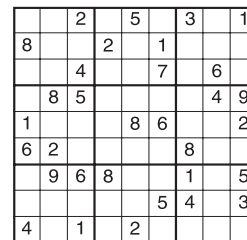
Across

- Unlike (9)
- Possess (3)
- Name (11)
- Clumsy persons (7)
- Of them (5)
- Singe (6)
- Contort (6)
- Get to know (5)
- Simplest (7)
- Wrongly (11)
- Self (3)
- Eye-glasses (9)

Down

- Freeze (3)
- Bird of prey (5)
- Pass (6)
- Chirp (7)
- Satisfaction (11)
- Cross (9)
- Smothering (11)
- Divulged (9)
- Sneering (7)
- Extreme fear (6)
- Gloss (5)
- Permit (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	9	6	3	8	1	4	5	2
2	3	1	7	5	4	6	9	8
8	4	5	6	9	2	7	1	3
9	6	7	2	1	5	8	3	4
5	1	3	8	4	7	2	6	9
4	8	2	9	3	6	1	7	5
3	5	4	1	6	8	9	2	7
6	7	8	5	2	9	3	4	1
1	2	9	4	7	3	5	8	6

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Ironed; 8 Evolve; 10 Secular; 11 Nodes; 12 More; 13 Thing; 17 Guise; 18 Wood; 22 Okapi; 23 Repulse; 24 Nectar; 25 Played. Down: 1 Winsome; 2 Concert; 3 Cello; 4 Evening; 5 Slide; 6 Cease; 9 Orchestra; 14 Musical; 15 Volleys; 16 Addenda; 19 Joint; 20 March; 21 Apple.
QUICK - Across: 7 Rooted; 8 Manage; 10 Diction; 11 Craft; 12 Care; 13 Miser; 17 Delay; 18 Hose; 22 Trade; 23 Hatful; 24 Credit; 25 Crisis. Down: 1 Predict; 2 Concern; 3 Tepid; 4 Satchel; 5 Pagan; 6 Jetty; 9 Antipathy; 14 Dement; 15 Confess; 16 Recluse; 19 Stick; 20 Waver; 21 Story.

Quiz

- With which country did Israel sign a peace treaty to end 46 years of conflict?
- Whose poem The Waste Land was first published in 1922?
- Which US state has the nickname the Hawkeye State?
- What does the "c" in E=mc squared represent?
- What name has been given to the former Labour Party HQ?

- Which group of military leaders takes its name from the Spanish for 'council'?
- Which member of the Monty Python team appeared in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein in 1994?
- What is the more common term for harjan, a member of India's lowest caste?
- What is another name for the mountain ash?
- Which area of open downland contains Stonehenge?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Ben Travers; 2 Doppler effect;

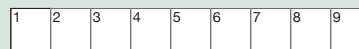
3 Taunton; 4 Interlaken; 5 Harold II; 6 Louvre; 7 Logarithms; 8 Grapefruit, tangerine and orange; 9 Lactose; 10 Mikhail Sholokhov.

Niner: BARITONES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6249 gives a fabric,
67898 gives a second fabric,
153678 gives a third fabric.



Tuesday 7th February
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MAIN COURSES
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One of the dining rooms at the restaurant/pub



The French Hen, Bromsgrove Road, Clent, near Stourbridge

Family matters at The French Hen

WHAT can be better than Sunday lunch with the family – especially when it's all served up in a cosy, traditional pub?

The French Hen in Clent has been on our 'to do list' for a while now. The pub has a comfortable bar area, two spacious restaurants and a function room.

Being a Sunday afternoon, the majority of tables were filled with families and their young children, so we fitted right in. We'd never been to the pub/restaurant before but straight away we were hit with the family-friendly feel of the whole place and, after being seated, we were served very promptly by two of the small army of young waitresses.

The French Hen has a specific menu for Sundays. The Sunday selection, served from noon until 5pm, was packed with a great selection.

The menu is also incredibly well-priced with two courses costing £12.95 and three courses £14.95.

We opted to split two starters between my wife Kelly, daughter Annabelle, and myself. Pâté maison was one we went for, which

By James Driver-Fisher

was a chicken liver pâté enriched with port, brandy and hard herbs, served with fresh bread, petit leaves and house chutney. The other was garlic mushrooms with the button mushrooms sautéed with onions in a creamy white wine and garlic sauce, served with fresh bread. They were ample to say the least.

The pâté was served as a thick slab, with half a toasted baguette. It was really very tasty, rather like the expensive varieties you can buy from the supermarket.

Flavour

There was just a hint of the port and brandy coming through, which gave it a rich flavour and, washed down with a few sips of the Rioja we had ordered, was a lovely way to start the meal. The mushroom dish was very well cooked and presented, with not too much garlic and butter.

Having finished the starters it was not long before we were presented with the mains, which was great timing for us having a young child.

A traditional Sunday dinner was all I had my eyes on so the only decision to make was to either go for the roast topside of beef, served with a Yorkshire pudding, tender leg of lamb, studded with garlic and rosemary, pork with crispy crackling, served with homemade stuffing, or roasted turkey crown or half a roasted chicken.

After deciding my daughter would probably enjoy the child's version of the roast beef – and knowing she probably wouldn't finish it all – I went for the lamb.

All the dinners came with roasted and new potatoes, and a seasonal vegetable medley, which were served in separate dishes.

It was a nice little touch and meant you could add your own rather than being presented with a huge dinner, which can sometimes be off-putting.

The lamb was very tender and the gravy it came served in was thick. All the vegetables had a slight crunch, while the roast potatoes were lovely and crispy.

Eaten with lashings of mint sauce, it was one of the better Sunday roasts I'd had in a while and I can also vouch for the beef being delicious too, after sneaking a mouthful off

my daughter's plate. For my own liking, it could possibly have been pinker in the middle.

Kelly fancied trying something a bit different from the roast – and luckily there was a menu offering just that. Tradition still eventually won the day when she chose ham, egg and chips. The hand-carved cooked ham came with peas and it was very nice. Kelly was surprised with the portion size – especially for the price – which was 'huge' and meant she struggled to finish it all. The large portions meant we simply shared an ice cream – well, we watched Annabelle finish off a children's strawberry ice cream – before getting the bill.

There is also an extensive Sunday baguette menu, which is served noon to 5pm in the bar and garden areas, for those who fancy a lighter bite.

Considering we ordered two starters, two mains, a children's meal, dessert and drink, and a bottle of red – the pint was paid for separately – the fact the bill came to a little over £50 shows how reasonably priced the food and drinks were.

Highly recommended, especially for families.



The pâté was served as a slab with half a toasted baguette

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Latest addition to Ford's luxury spin-off brand

By Simon Davis

The Kuga Vignale is the fourth car to be released under Ford's new flagship brand, following the Mondeo Vignale, the S-Max Vignale and the new Edge Vignale.

In an attempt to move the C-segment SUV towards the more premium end of the market, Ford has plied the Kuga Vignale with a number of new features, and a higher level of standard equipment – including the latest Sync 3 infotainment system.

There are four engine options available with the new Kuga Vignale – two petrols and two diesels. Ford's 1.5-litre EcoBoost petrol engine can be specified with either 148bhp or 180bhp, while the 2.0-litre TDCi diesel is available with 148bhp or 178bhp. Our test car was fitted with the more powerful diesel unit, which was paired with Ford's Powershift automatic transmission and all-wheel drive.

The Vignale makeover has added numerous features to the Kuga's exterior – including chintzy 19-inch polished alloy wheels, plenty of chrome, and Vignale's signature hexagonal grille.

The Kuga's cabin has also been worked on. The seats have been upholstered in quilted leather, and there's plenty of leather around the dashboard and door panels. In our test car, the seats were finished in Ford's signature Cashmere colour – a sort of light cream shade – which looked very smart indeed. There are still a couple of noticeable cheap plastics that can



Vignale has chintzy 19-inch polished alloy wheels

be seen but on the whole, the Kuga's interior works nicely from an aesthetic point of view.

Comfort-wise, the Kuga Vignale won't give you many reasons to moan. The quilted leather seats are comfortable, although they could provide slightly more lateral support, and offer plenty of adjustability to make finding the correct driving position a breeze.

The Kuga Vignale's five-seat layout offers plenty of room for passengers in both the front and the back. Headspace is plentiful throughout the cabin, and rear passengers won't feel shortchanged when it comes to legroom.

In terms of boot space, the Kuga Vignale manages a decent 406 litres of storage capacity. Folding the rear seats down will extend this to 1,603 litres. As part of the Vignale treatment, Ford has also given the Kuga a hands-free tailgate. By simply waving your foot under the rear bumper, the boot will pop open – provided you have the car keys in your pocket.

Dynamically, the Kuga offers a rather pleasing drive. Sure, it's not the most exciting driving experience in the world, but it has plenty of grip through the corners and the steering is well weighted and provides a good amount of feedback. It rides in a comfortable manner thanks to a softer suspension set-up, although this does give way to a noticeable amount of body roll when cornering enthusiastically.

Out on the motorway, the Kuga Vignale makes for a rather fantastic mile cruncher. Road and wind noise aren't terribly intrusive, and the 2.0-litre diesel engine accelerates smoothly and fairly quietly. As mentioned earlier, the cabin is an incredibly comfortable place to be, which means covering long distances in the Kuga is a far from exhausting experience.

While the Kuga isn't exactly a small car, its size shouldn't prove to be too much of a problem when it comes to driving in an urban environment. Thanks to decent visibility out of the cabin and the addition of Ford's Perpendicular Parking system – which actually parks the car for you – you should never have too much trouble fitting the Kuga into a space.

Prices for the Kuga Vignale begin at £30,795 – which is fairly pricey for a C-segment SUV adorned with the Blue Oval. That said though, you do get a large amount of kit for your money. Ford throws in its new Sync 3 infotainment system as standard, which incorporates satellite navigation, Apple Car Play and Android Auto, DAB radio, and Bluetooth connectivity to name a few features. You can also give the system voice commands such as "I need petrol" to inform the navigation to direct you to the closest petrol station.



The Vignale makeover has added numerous features to the Kuga's exterior

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Kia Rio gets its fourth rejuvenation

For buyers, the supermini category has never been more important. Why? Because modern examples of the breed are now for the first time large enough to function as complete family cars.

Take, for example, the model we're looking at here, Kia's fourth generation Rio. It's as big as a turn of the century Astra or Focus from the Family Hatchback segment, the next pricier class up. More importantly, it's the first really top class supermini the Korean brand has ever brought us.

It's a progression that anyone familiar with Kia will have been expecting. The first two generations of Rio were quite embarrassing but the MK3 model of 2011 was pretty class-competitive. When the wraps came off this fourth generation version in the autumn of 2016 though, it was clear that it was going to be a bit more than that. Here's a car that targets nothing less than the top of the segment in terms of the things that really matter to supermini buyers – styling, running costs and everyday practicality.

The previous generation Rio model didn't advance existing engine technology too much, so it's good to see that Kia has made a bit more effort on this front this time round. Key to the line-up is the down-sized three cylinder 1.0-litre T-GDI petrol unit we first saw on the facelifted MK2 model cee'd family hatch, offered here – as there – with either 98 or 118bhp power outputs, in both cases accompanied by 172Nm of torque. The lightweight nature of this T-GDI powerplant should benefit the Rio's front-end handling, with less mass and inertia for the car to work against under cornering. Less sophisticated



This Rio looks more distinctive

are the 82bhp 1.25 and 90bhp 1.4-litre MPI petrol units, a comment also applicable to the 1.4-litre diesel engine, which produces either 69 or 88bhp. All engines apply power to the front wheels. There's a five-speed manual transmission for the base 1.25-litre petrol unit and the 98bhp 1.0-litre T-GDI powerplant. Otherwise, you get a six-speed manual

This Rio certainly looks more distinctive, the front end characterised by the latest evolution of Kia's 'tigrinose' grille, now thinner in height and wider across the front of the car, with a gloss black grille cover.

Inside, the restyled cabin feels more up-market, helped by gloss black trim that lines the central section of a dashboard now more angled towards the driver. At the centre of the fascia is a high-resolution touchscreen. Below, the driver-oriented centre console features fewer buttons, with more ergonomic, concave switches and rotator dials below to control the heating and ventilation. Thanks



The New Rio is the first top class supermini the Korean brand has ever brought ut

to 10mm of extra wheelbase, there's much more space to spread out inside – and more bootspace too, 325-litres of luggage room now on offer, about the same as you get in a Focus, despite the fact that this is a Fiesta-segment model.

Don't expect Rio pricing to change much, so as before, this car will sit in the £11,000 to £18,000 bracket. That might sound a lot but most variants will be sold in the £11,000 to £14,500 bracket, which makes it one of the most affordable Fiesta-sized superminis out

As before, equipment levels are strong. More affordable models get a 'floating' 5.0-inch touchscreen audio system with six speakers. Buyers can also specify a 7.0-inch touchscreen infotainment and navigation system, with Kia Connected Services powered by TomTom, as well as Android Auto and Apple CarPlay for full smartphone integration. This Rio will be the first car in the B-segment to have USB ports in the front and rear of the cabin. As for safety, the Rio will be the first car in the B-segment to feature

'AEB' 'Autonomous Emergency Braking with pedestrian recognition'.

It's easy to see why Kia is one of the fastest growing car makers in the world, doubling its global sales over the last few years thanks to a range of models now seriously troubling the European market's established players. Here's another one that'll add to their concerns, smartly styled and class-leadingly spacious and efficient. As a result, it can now compete head-on with its mainstream rivals and betters many of them.

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vets

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7 Jobs
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cars under £1500

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07958 400177.



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Nice looking car worth seeing.

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01902 262001 or 07928 679949.

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NISSAN NOTE

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07950 727297

IMMACULATE

PEUGEOT 207S 1.4

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RENAULT CLIO

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£1,400

07711 959120.

BARGAIN

RENAULT CLIO 1.2 DYNAMIQUE

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55 reg,

42,000 miles,

EW, PAS, CD,

long MoT.

£895

07722 998594.

RENAULT CLIO CAMPUS

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£1,299.

07879 403302.

MUST BE SEEN

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2

5Dr, 54 Reg., long MoT,

18,000 miles only.

Must be seen.

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IDEAL FIRST CAR

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95,000 miles, 2001.

£300.

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FORD C-MAX 2010, 1.8L D 30k miles, black, fsh, parking sensors, excellent car. Well looked after. MoT 7/17. £4,250 07903 530573.

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07545302833

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£1,600 ono.

0121 557 2706.

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LOW MILEAGE

RENAULT SCENIC MPV

2003, 1400cc, two remote keys, EW, new cam belt fitted, MoT to April 2017, just under 32,000 genuine miles, fsh.

£600 o.n.o.

07518 327271.

MUST BE SEEN

SEAT IBIZA

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£3,500 ono

07791 076789.

MUST BE SEEN

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£6,250 ovno.

01746 862744.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI

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SOLD

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public & legal notices

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Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 8 Morlich Rise Lakeside Brierley Hill West Midlands DY5 3YZ, who died on 29/09/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 13/04/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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10 Personals

personal

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Nice looking smart lady with high standards, GSOH, and various interests WLTm a tall solvent well groomed gent around my age, someone special to share quality time.

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HI LADIES HAPPY NEW YEAR

Gentleman, tall, smart medium build, car owner, mid 60's, GSOH, honest, caring and loyal, likes the good things in life.

WLTm similar, slim to medium lady, for dates leading to a possible romance relationship.

Box Number P20686,
Express and Star,
Queen Street,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE, 61

Very caring, sincere, loving and easy going WLTm someone similar.

Box Number P20693 ,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE, 62

Professional, slim, and attractive.

Is there an intelligent, slim/medium build lady out there, who would like to relax and chat over a few glasses of wine and see how things go.

Photo please (returned).

Box Number P20696,
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PLEASANT, CHEERFUL NICE PERSONALITY

GSOH, 57 year old chap, slight disability would love the opportunity to meet nice, decent Female for Friendship possible relationship.

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REFINED LADY 60's

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Box Number P20691 ,
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Box Number P20684 ,
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WIDOW LATE 70'S

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PEUGEOT 207 2.0 PETROL
2003, metallic gold, nice interior, all electric, fsh, full MoT, sunroof, radio/CD player, very good condition.
Advert example only.
£2,600 o.n.o
01902 123456.

RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0 DIESEL
2005, 5dr, black metallic, full MoT, 56K, dealer serviced, full av, fsh, leather interior, sat nav, leather interior, in car D system, excellent condition, (Advert example only)
£2,500 o.n.o
01902 123456.

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* 135 customers surveyed July 2016)
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Anaesh Patel with New Zealand Test-playing batsman Ross Taylor



Worcestershire batting coach Ron Headley has been an influence



Anaesh runs shoulders with legendary West Indian fast bowler Michael Holding



The teenager with bowling coach Kevin Lyons from Glamorgan

Cricket prospect aims to have batsmen in a spin

SPORTING FEATURE

By Lewis Cox

A CRICKETING prospect from Walsall is spinning his way to India after landing a scholarship experience – and will bring his talent to the Birmingham League next season.

Anaesh Patel is one of just three nationwide winners who will be jetting over to Asia in March after success in the Southall Travel Spin Scholarship scheme.

The competition, held for promising spinners between the ages of 18 and 21 and not contracted to a First Class county outfit, was held at the Leicestershire CCC Indoor Cricket Centre.

And talented 21-year-old Patel, who got into the sport as a youngster with the help of a 'cricket-crazy' father, wants to make a splash in India before returning and unleashing his skills on the local scene.

Settled

The young hopeful has featured for a host of local sides in his junior years, cutting his teeth with Wolverhampton, Walsall, West Bromwich Dartmouth, Staffordshire under-13s and Worcestershire under-17s.

As an 18-year-old he left for Cardiff to study mathematics at university, where he featured for Cardiff Cricket Club in the South Wales Premier League.

Now studying risk management in Leicestershire and commuting from home, Patel is settled and ready to return to the West Midlands scene for the 2017 season – after he enjoys an all-expenses paid week-long spin scholarship in Mumbai.

On winning the event – sponsored by Southall

"It's important to spin the ball and make the batsman drive and also to have confidence in your bowling."

Travels and Club Cricket Conference – Patel said: "I am over the moon to have won the award especially as it was a national competition."

"I am really looking forward to visiting India and gaining further experience on sub-continent pitches. I would like to thank to my bowling coach Kevin Lyons (Glamorgan CCC) and batting coach Ron Headley for the many hours they have spent developing my bowling and batting skills."

"It goes without saying that without the support of my parents this victory would not have been possible."

As well as mixing it with the likes of experienced coach Lyons in Wales and former West Indies star Headley (Worcestershire batting coach), Patel has been able to rub shoulders with the likes of New Zealand Test players Tom Latham and Ross Taylor and West Indian great fast bowler Michael Holding.

Headley arranged the surprise visit of legendary paceman Holding, nicknamed 'Whispering Death',

after Patel and his young team-mates had been wowed by the 2010 film 'Fire in Babylon' – an ode to when West Indies dominated world cricket.

He was also invited to pit his wits against the Black Caps stars, with Patel bowling at Latham, Taylor and co in a star-studded net session.

Patel's dad Naresh, a Level 2 ECB qualified cricket coach, explained how his son would become transfixed with the game at an early age – watching stars on the television and trying to recreate scenes in the house, much to the annoyance of his wife.

"We never pushed him but he was always into it and enjoyed it," said Naresh.

"He's worked hard in everything he has done and cricket is the same."

Surreal

"We're already looking for a local team for Anaesh to play with next season after the trip to Mumbai. It will be his first time out there and to go on a scholarship there will be amazing for him."

Anaesh hopes to still make the grade in professional cricket, citing his risk management degree as an option to fall back on.

"Initially I wanted to be a batsman, but soon noticed that I could turn the ball so I was encouraged to bowl leg spin and have never looked back," said the youngster.

"I really couldn't believe it that I had won. It was totally surreal and I am really looking forward to going to India."

"I think it's important to spin the ball and always make the batsman drive and also to have confidence in your bowling and skill levels."



Anaesh has also had the chance to meet New Zealand batsman Tom Latham



Anaesh, his father and brother with 'Whispering Death', aka West Indian paceman Holding



Barcelos is scourge of Glassboys

Stourbridge 1 Grantham 4

FELIPE Barcelos was the scourge of the Glassboys again as the Brazilian helped himself to a hat-trick in a 4-1 Integro League Cup win.

A much-changed Glassboys side was soundly beaten on Monday night against a side now unbeaten in 14 games.

Barcelos had previously netted a hat-trick against Stourbridge while playing for Oxford City in 2011.

He had already glanced a fourth minute header wide before he was gifted the easiest of goals three minutes later thanks to a calamitous mix-up between Drew Canavan and Jacob Wedderburn.

Curtis Burrows doubled the lead on 15 minutes.

Luke Benbow reduced the arrears on 25 minutes, but a short back-pass from Lewis Probert was pounced upon by Barcelos for his second on 35 and he rounded off the scoring with 15 minutes to go.

The teams meet again for a key league game in Grantham on February 11.

Sutton Coldfield 4 Stourbridge 1
BOSS Gary Hackett vowed to give his players "the benefit of the doubt" after their long unbeaten league run was ended by struggling Sutton on Saturday.

The Glassboys were previously unbeaten in 12 Evo-Stik Premier Division games and had not conceded in five.

Stour's collapse began seven minutes into the second half when ex-Glassboy Sean Geddes scored from the spot.

David Howarth converted at the near post to double Sutton's lead just before the hour and six minutes later slotted home Max Wright's centre.

Howarth completed his hat-trick before a Jordan Archer consolation.

The Glassboys dropped down to sixth and Hackett said: "Sutton were the better side and we were well beaten. Too many of our players did not perform but they deserve the benefit of the doubt."

Dunkley double gives Yeltz more breathing space

Halesowen 4 Mickleover Sports 2
HALESOWEN hero Tristian Dunkley fired two goals to give Yeltz breathing space from the Evo-Stik Northern Premier danger-zone.

Mickleover have shipped 19 goals in a torrid run of six straight defeats and made a dreadful start when Halesowen's Lee Chilton steered home a loose ball from Matt Birley's first minute shot. A deflected Birley shot then struck the bar before Mickleover enjoyed a good spell either side of the interval.

Pressure told as Tyler Blake equalised in the 59th minute. But Yeltz regained the lead a minute later as Birley teed up Dunkley.

Platt made further excellent reflex saves to keep out efforts from Mickleover's McGrath and Blake before Dunkley met Ethan Delaney's cross and turned superbly on the edge of the penalty area to fire in his second after 75 minutes.

Substitute Delaney controlled Birley's 89th minute free-kick and slammed home Halesowen's fourth goal but Mickleover had the final say with Blake completing a brace.

Hero Luke returns to home paddock

Boxing

Andy Keates, who has twice failed in steps up to the English title, for those area honours.

Summers was knocking on the door of national honours at light heavyweight at the start of last year, but a stop-start 2016 halted his progress. The 29-year-old has now taken ex-pro Richard Ghent as his main coach and will train out of Ghent's RG Box Fit base in Bilston.

Also on the card are the undefeated Tom Stokes, from West Bromwich, Manny 'Pac Man' Zaber, of Old Hill and Wolverhampton's Kyle

Williams, 24. Johnson also bloods two new debutants, Lauren Johnson, also from Wolverhampton and West Bromwich's Dwain Grant.

Now 32, 'the Black Widow' is coming into the pro game as a middleweight after learning her craft at the Wodensborough and Walsall Wood clubs. Grant, meanwhile, nicknamed 'Cheeky', could be a surprise package, coming from the unlicensed circuit.

The card is completed by heavyweight Dilly Singh, a prospect from Coventry with two points wins to his credit, and Brummie bantamweight Ijaz Ahmed. Tickets are £30 and £60 ringside on 0845 111 2900.

LAPSES AT BACK ARE PUNISHED

Harrogate 19 Stourbridge 12

AGAIN the euphoria of the previous week's performance, Stour fell strangely flat at Ruding Lane.

Defensive lapses were clinically exploited by the hosts whose discipline denied the visitors the opportunity to keep the scoreboard ticking over through the boot of Luke White. The silver lining came by way of a losing bonus point and a sixth successive scoring appearance for winger Dan Rundle.

Harrogate kicked off with first use of wind and slope on a surface that was soft but stood up well to the morning rain. They put the first points on the board when fullback Dave Doherty went over, the try converted.

With just eight minutes gone, Stour were on level terms as Rundle crossed, with White adding the extras.

Stour rang the replacements for the second half, but the pattern of the game continued much as before. Again, Harrogate were first on the scoresheet as winger Harry Barnard touched down. Again Stour replied, with replacement prop Stef Thorp scoring a try.

Pinned

The hosts worked their way back upfield and moved the ball wide where Doherty found only token resistance, his run setting up a try for winger Oli Rosillo.

Stour finished pinned in their own 22 and the game was finally up when they conceded a penalty on their own scrum feed, Sam Fox's miss from point-blank range providing a silver lining by way of a losing bonus point.

This week Stour host second-placed Sale eager to make inroads into the 11 league point margin that separates the sides in National 2 North.

Stourbridge Lions stayed three points clear at the top with a 41-0 win over Shrewsbury.

By half-time the Lions led 29-0, thanks to five tries, two converted, from Will King, Owen Williams, Will Fallows, Cass Brookes and George Tildesley. Second half efforts by Tom Partridge, converted, and Fred Brooks followed.

The Greyhounds beat Harborne 2nds 39-24 to move six points clear at the top of North Midlands Reserve league Division 3. The Grasshoppers defeated Willenhall 3rds 38-0 in a friendly.

Stepping out before big fight



From left, Connor Parker, Brad Foster, Lennox Clarke and Josh Stokes at the Banks's

HALESOWEN boxer Lennox Clarke trod the Banks's Stadium turf ahead of topping the bill at the Walsall FC venue next month.

The super middleweight will headline Errol Johnson's four-fight 'Battleground' bill on February 17.

Three other fighters, Lichfield flyweight Brad Foster, Swadlincote super lightweight Connor Parker and West Bromwich light heavyweight Josh Stokes, joined him in making a half-time appearance during the Saddlers' 3-1 win over Bristol Rovers.

The quartet handed out certificates to Walsall's Academy Players of the Month from under-9s to under-16s. Baggies fan Clarke said: "I

enjoy fighting at Walsall. It's a good venue and the fans are close to the action. I always get a good reception from the football fans too."

Clarke tops the bill in an eight-round contest against 28-year-old Pole Bartmiej Gaftka.

Foster takes part in a six round contest, though scheduled opponent Brett Fidoe is no longer available. Parker steps in against former English title challenger Liam Richards, while Stokes, brother of unbeaten middleweight Tom, will debut at light heavyweight against Lincoln's Mitch Mitchell.

Standard tickets are £35, available by calling the boxers, or £60 VIP tickets for tables of 10, with two-course meal. Call 01922 651 414/416.

Chess club remains in drop zone

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club remain in the Birmingham league Division 2 relegation zone after defeat against leaders West Bromwich.

West Bromwich fielded their top players, but half an hour in, it looked good for Stourbridge. Then, the complications set in on board one. At the end of all the captures a count of the material revealed the Stourbridge board was an exchange and a pawn down and forced to resign. It had been too complicated to calculate and Stourbridge were 1-0 down.

On board 2 Julie Wilson was slightly ahead but missed a winning move, lost a pawn and agreed a draw in an inferior position with her opponent short of time.

Eric Horwill was down to less than five minutes on the clock, while his opponent had over an hour. Unable to get through and down on material, Eric played a beautiful rook sacrifice which allowed him to get a perpetual check to draw the game.

On board 3 the West Brom player won a pawn and eventually won the king and pawn endgame. Reserve Tony Shaw drew on board 6.

Sam Bradley was three pawns up and ahead on time on board 5 when his opponent blundered his queen and resigned.

The final score was 3½ - 2½.

Against South Birmingham in Dudley division 2, Stourbridge were out graded by 20 plus points per board, but almost grabbed a draw against the leaders, with good draws for Chris Cox, Richard Wilkinson and top board Jeremy Humphries. This left Colin Woodall on board 4. He was level for most of the game but lost a couple of pawns in the end game and eventually lost on time.

SCC had a decent team assembled for the first Dudley division 1 match of the season against Warley Quinborne, but suffered a disappointing 3-1 loss.

Winter training put to test by triathletes

THIRTEEN Black Country triathletes put their winter training to the test in the Trail Half Marathon Wales in Snowdonia. James Lewis was first back for the club in 1:39:26, 13th male overall and fourth in the Vet 40 age group.

Ben Monkton finished in 1:40:23, Lee Moreton in 1:44:17, ninth in age group, Jon Link in 1:49:11, Rob Kennard in 1:54:33, fifth in Vet 50, Tim Lake 1:55:30, Keith Bate in 2:01:07, the second male Vet 60, David Nash in 2:01:57, David Hathaway in 2:02:40, Nigel Bolton in 2:10:03, Mark Evans in 2:15:26, Nigel Briscoe in 2:20:24 and Julie Black in 2:35:20.

★★★

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